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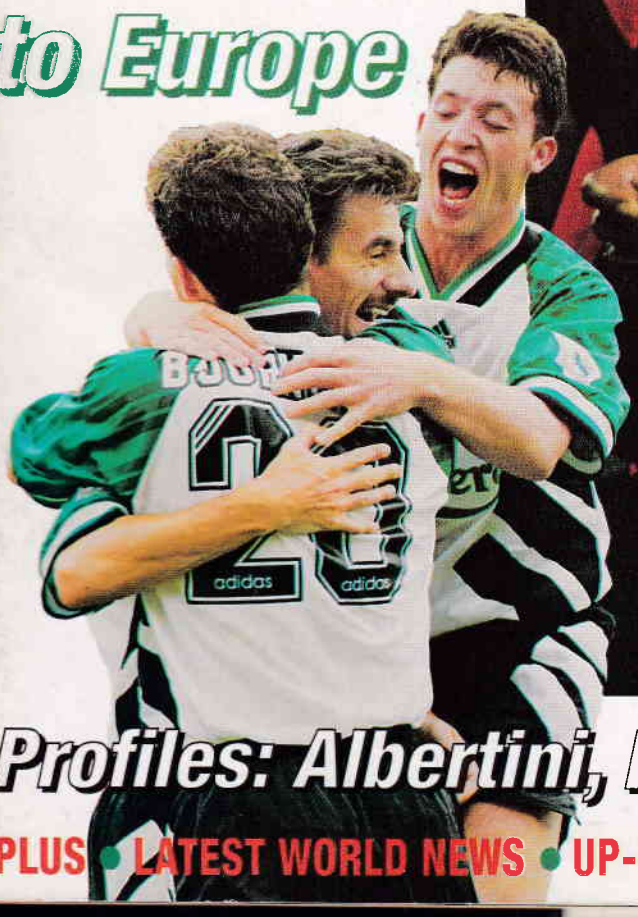
CHAMPIONS CUP SPECIAL

RIJKAARD
Bows out in style

LIVERPOOL
Look ahead to Europe



Profiles: Albertini, Kanu and Esnaider

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GAZZ-GOING?

PAUL GASCOIGNE is back . . . but his future remains as uncertain as ever. Shaven-headed Gazza returned for Lazio in the 2-0 win over Reggiana, but was then dropped for the Rome derby with AS Roma. The English press have been speculating about a possible return to England in 1996, with Manchester United, Chelsea, Blackburn, Leeds and Middlesbrough mentioned as potential bidders.

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Editor
KEIR RADNEDGE

Group Editor
PAUL HAWKSBEE

Group Art Editor
STAN MCDONALD

Design
MARTIN IXER

Production/Sub Editor
GAVIN HAMILTON

Picture Editor
DUNCAN BOND

Editorial
TEL: 0171-261 5737
FAX: 0171-261 7474

Advertising Manager
JULIAN CLARK

Publishing Director
ANDY McDUFF

Publisher
DAVID J. SMITH

Editorial Consultant
PETER STEWART

Advertising
TEL: 0171-261 5702

Back Issues Department
TEL: 0181-503 0588

***WORLD SOCCER*, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London, SE1 9LS**

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ESM
EUROPEAN SPORTS MAGAZINES

Milan are ready to make it six of the best. Keir Radnedge looks at what could be a classic European Champions Cup Final

six appeal

MILAN are favourites to win their sixth Champions Cup in the Final in Vienna on May 24 – and the man who says so is Louis Van Gaal, coach of rivals Ajax

The European champions possess the experience and the class. But what they do not possess, perhaps, is the youthful ambition emanating from Amsterdam as a Dutch team returns to Europe's premier club event for the first time since PSV Eindhoven beat Benfica on penalties in 1988.

At least European football fans can be certain of one thing: this IS the right Final. Milan and Ajax, representing very different strands of European football, are the two top teams around and should provide a duel to fascinate as well as entertain.

It was not always thus. In the 'old days' the Champions Cup Finals often proved extraordinarily ill-balanced contests, if such they could be called. The 1979 Final in which Nottingham Forest were called upon to beat the raw Swedes of Malmo is one which springs readily to mind.

It all started to change in the summer of 1989 when the first-round draw threw up a meeting of Real Madrid, six-times champions of Europe and reigning champions of Spain, with Napoli, reigning champions of Italy and the showcase club for the world's greatest active footballer, Diego Maradona.

Directors and officials of both clubs were aghast. For one of them the financially mouth-watering gravy train was about to be brought to a halt almost before it had begun.

The same thought struck some of UEFA's senior politicians. They had, several years earlier, introduced the first rough-and-ready seeding system to spread the competitive balance a little during the first two rounds. But the matching of Madrid and Napoli – in essence because Napoli had no European pedigree and thus no points in the seeding system – was saying something else. It was demonstrable evidence that European football's own governing body was selling short its major asset – the Champions Cup.

The consequences lead directly to the duel which will be set before world football on May 24 in the re-named Ernst-Happel-stadion in Vienna: Milan against Ajax.

First, UEFA set about reconstructing a serious seeding system which would save the high-prestige international matches until later in its three competitions. That prospect made television feel more comfortable about the Champions Cup. Television brought in extra, undreamed-of, sums of money. So UEFA then turned the whole exercise on its head and set out deliberately to redevelop its club competitions so as to be TV-friendly.

The inception of the Champions League brought league consistency to the results pattern, in place of the glorious uncertainty of the traditional cup format. Hence, the Final really is what it should be – the competitive pinnacle of European club football.

The 1992, the first experimental season in which the Champions Cup incorporated mini leagues, the Final was contested with class and style by Barcelona and Sampdoria, then the best two teams in Europe. A year later, in 1993, the first formal year of the properly-commercially-packaged Champions League, the Final was Milan v Marseille. In 1994, it was Milan v Barcelona. As in the previous two years, the best clubs had made it to the Final.

Vienna bound . . . Milan celebrate Savicevic's semi-final goals against Paris Saint-Germain

Semi-final hero . . . Milan's Dejan Savicevic torments the PSG defence

So, too, this year. Holders Milan against season-long favourites Ajax Amsterdam.

Two clubs whose matching international pedigrees contrast starkly against the nature of their respective domestic football. Two clubs who see the transfer market from almost incomprehensible extremes. Two clubs who, for all their differences, represent technical and tactical progress and innovation.

Milan have won the Champions Cup five times so far. They have been European football's dominant club ever since Marco Van Basten and Ruud Gullit arrived from Holland at the behest of Silvio Berlusconi and Arrigo Sacchi in 1987. Van Basten – whose future is once more in the balance because of ankle damage – began with this very same Ajax.

So did Frank Rijkaard, who spent five hugely successful seasons with Milan before returning to Ajax last summer.

For Rijkaard this will be a remarkable swansong. He says he will retire from playing the following weekend, when Dutch champions-elect Ajax complete their league programme against Twente Enschede.

Ajax have won the Champions Cup three times, all in consecutive years in the early 1970s. Those were the days of Johan Cruyff and Johan Neeskens, of Rudi Krol and of 'total football'.

It was thought in the late 1970s that 'total football' had faded out. Instead, it returned in a more structurally disciplined form in Milan. Coach Sacchi – since succeeded, of course, by Fabio Capello – wanted

to lift Italian football out of its defensive straitjacket.

The success of his mission may be gauged by Milan's domination of Italy and Europe ever since and by the international acclaim showered upon players such as the three Dutchmen, such as Italy's Roberto Donadoni and Frenchman Marcel Desailly, and great defenders such as Franco Baresi and Paolo Maldini.

The essence of the Ajax version of the 'total football' was that each player could do the other's job and possess such technical virtuosity and tactical intelligence so as not to look out of place anywhere on the pitch. Like Cruyff and Krol in the 1970s . . . like Savicevic and Maldini today.

Last year Milan v Barcelona was, simply, a beautiful massacre. Milan's 4-0 win was an epic performance. The question now is whether the Milan who face Ajax will be the Milan of a year ago, omnipotent and in a class of their own . . . or will it the Milan of the first half of this season: the Milan who virtually threw away their League crown; whose shapeless midfield and erratic defence presented Ajax with not one but two victories 2-0 in their Champions League group?

Ajax are creators, themselves, of course. Their great creation is a conveyor-belt of precocious young talent. Such as Clarence Seedorf and Patrik Kluivert, who will surely follow the dozen or more Ajax products who have flown abroad.

Ajax will look to Finland's Jari Litmanen to maintain his golden form in and around the penalty box. Milan will seek, no doubt, to take the game by the scruff of the next from the opening minutes.

That was how they beat Barcelona last year and that, no doubt, is what makes Ajax coach Van Gaal such a cautious match analyst this time around. At least he has one advantage not granted to fellow countryman Johan Cruyff with Barcelona last year. Van Gaal – whatever he may say in public – should know precisely what to expect.

Even that, however, in my opinion, may not be enough to deny Milan Cup No 6.

THE ROAD TO THE FINAL

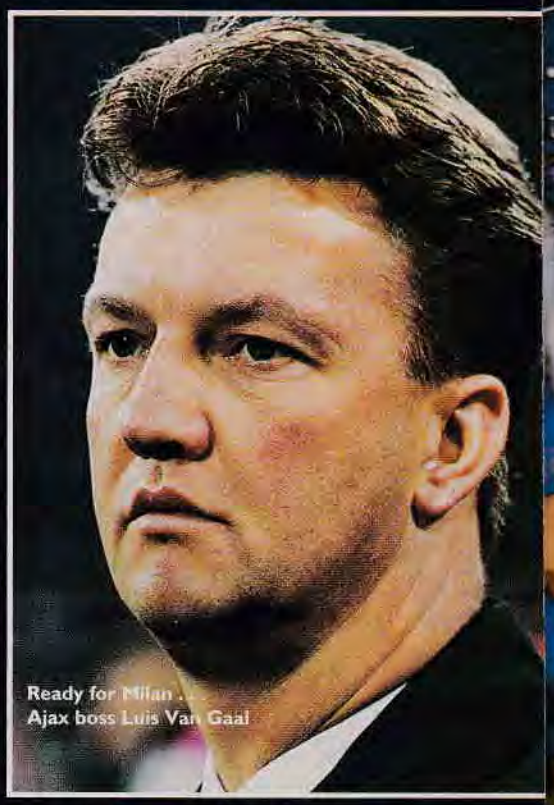
CHAMPIONS LEAGUE GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ajax Amsterdam	6	4	2	0	9	2	10
Milan	6	3	1	2	6	5	5*
Salzburg	6	1	3	2	4	6	5
AEK Athens	6	0	2	4	3	9	2

*two points deducted for crowd trouble.

First matchday (Sep 14)
AJAX 2 (R De Boer 51, Litmanen 65)
MILAN 0
Second matchday (Sep 28)
AEK ATHENS 1 (Savevski 30)
AJAX AMSTERDAM 2 (Litmanen 33, Kluivert 63)
MILAN 3 (Stroppa 40, Simone 59, 64)
CASINO SALZBURG 0
Third matchday (Oct 19)
AEK ATHENS 0
MILAN 0
CASINO SALZBURG
0 AJAX AMSTERDAM 0
Fourth matchday (Nov 2)
AJAX 1 (Litmanen 85)
CASINO SALZBURG 1 (Kocijan 62)
MILAN 2 (Panucci 68, 74)
AEK ATHENS 1 (Savevski 16) *in Trieste
Fifth matchday (Nov 23)
MILAN 0
AJAX 2 (Litmanen 2, Baresi og 66) *in Trieste
Sixth matchday (Dec 7)
AJAX 2 (Oulida 8, 79)
AEK ATHENS 0
CASINO SALZBURG 0
MILAN 1 (Massaro 26) *in Vienna
QUARTER-FINALS
1st legs (Mar 1)
HAJDUK SPLIT 0
AJAX AMSTERDAM 0
MILAN 2 (Simone 63, 75)
BENFICA 0
2nd legs (Mar 15)
AJAX AMSTERDAM 3 (Kanu 39, F de Boer 44, 67)
HAJDUK SPLIT 0 (Ajax 3-0 on agg)
BENFICA 0
MILAN 0 (Milan 2-0 on agg)
SEMI-FINAL
1st legs (April 5)
BAYERN MUNICH 0
AJAX AMSTERDAM 0
PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN 0
MILAN 1 (Boban 89)
2nd legs (April 19)
AJAX 5 (Litmanen 11, 46, George 41, R de Boer 45, Overmars 88)
BAYERN MUNICH 2 (Witeczek 36, Scholl 74pen) (Ajax 5-2 on agg)
MILAN 2 (Savicevic 21, 68)
PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN 0 (Milan 3-0 on agg)

Keir Radnedge spoke to Ajax coach Louis Van Gaal as the Dutch champions prepared for the match against Milan in Vienna


Ready for Milan . . . Ajax boss Luis Van Gaal

WORLD SOCCER: You beat Milan twice by 2-0 in the Champions League phase last autumn. Is that an advantage?

LOUIS VAN GAAL: Not at all. We've forgotten those games already. We know that we will face, in Vienna, a very different Milan to the one we played last autumn. Milan now, this spring, have changed, have regrouped. We have to tell ourselves we don't know this 'new' Milan. That's why we've studied them carefully these last few weeks. But I should say also that we have developed and changed. We are even more confident in our own abilities now.

How much have you improved?

I would say perhaps 50 per cent. It's enough for me to remind my players of one thing. That in 1993 Milan, just like us now, reached the Final unbeaten – but then lost to Marseille. A one-off match does us no favours.

Why?

Because we are a team who lose even fewer games than Milan. But any team who are holders of a trophy and who are playing their fifth final in seven years must be favourites. Perhaps, at least, that will guarantee us the support of neutrals in the crowd!

Do you think Milan will be upset by the pressure of knowing that, if they don't win in Vienna, they will be out of the Champions Cup next season?

No. Milan have too much experience to be influenced by the pressures of the occasions. Look at what happened last December when they had to play in this same stadium in Vienna against Austria Salzburg: they had to win to reach the quarter-finals . . . and that's precisely what they did. Milan know how to deal with pressure.

Do you think that Johan Cruyff and Barcelona underestimated Milan last year?

Cruyff just had great confidence in his own team and there's nothing wrong with that. Perhaps it wasn't quite sensible to go so public with what he was thinking. Unlike Barcelona, we won't be thinking about Milan until we get into the dressing rooms before the game.

To win a Final you need to score goals. Yet Milan haven't conceded a goal in their last five European games. What makes you think you can succeed where others have failed this year?

The result of any match depends on both teams, not just on the one. I have no worries about our ability to score goals in any situation. For example, six times this season we have been losing at the end of the first half yet recovered to win.

You are fortunate not to be missing your captain Danny Blind in defence because of suspension. How did you see the incident against Bayern in the second leg?

Blind was unfortunate. Against Bayern he stopped a shot from Mehmet Scholl with his hand but probably more involuntarily than deliberate. That's why the referee, Puhl, gave the penalty but also correctly, showed Blind a yellow card and not a red. Blind, to us, is worth as much as Baresi is to Milan.

Is it too simplistic to see this as a game between the best attack in Europe – Ajax – and the best defence – Milan?

That's missing the point about the different ways the teams play. For example, we start defending in the opponents' midfield. Milan, for their part, start to attack from deep positions. I don't expect Fabio Capello or I will be shaken from our football philosophies for one game. It's too dangerous.

Will the attacking duel between Litmanen and Savicevic be decisive?

What will matter most will be who plays the better team game and thus creates the more openings.

And you expect that will be Ajax?

I wouldn't be going to Vienna otherwise.

FINAL THOUGHTS . . .

- Milan skipper Franco Baresi has signed a contract extension for one last season.
- If Milan win, midfielder Marcel Desailly will collect a winner's medal for the third successive season – after victories with Marseille in 1993 and Milan in 1994.
- If Milan win, they will equal Real Madrid's total of six Champions Cup victories.
- If Ajax win, they will equal Liverpool's haul of four Champions Cups – equal behind Madrid (six) and Milan (five).
- Milan have played 21 international finals in all major club events – winning 13. This season they lost the World Club Cup 2-0 to Velez Sarsfield but beat Arsenal in the European Supercup.
- Milan have reached the Final despite having had two points deducted in the Champions League phase when Otto Konrad, goalkeeper of Austria Salzburg, was struck by a missile thrown from the crowd in the Stadio Meazza.
- Probable teams: **Ajax:** Van der Sar – Reiziger, F de Boer, Bogarde – R de Boer, Rijkaard, Litmanen, Davids – George, Kanu, Overmars. Coach: Louis Van Gaal.

Milan: Rossi – Tassotti, Baresi, Maldini, Panucci – Eranio, Albertini, Desailly, Boban – Savicevic, Simone. Coach: Fabio Capello.

YOUNG AND

TWO years age, a Nigerian magazine asked Nwankwo Kanu what his ultimate ambition was. "To be the best player in the world," was the reply of a boy who was then the most exciting youngster on the local scene.

Ajax Amsterdam gave Kanu the opportunity to realise his dreams a few months later, when they drafted him into their youth team. He had been spotted on a training tour of Holland with the Nigerian Under-17 team in April 1993.

Kanu had first been discovered on the dusty streets of Owerri a year earlier, by Nigeria's Iwuanyanwu Nationale. He joined the youth team, but a few months later the senior side went through a lean spell and the 16-year-old was drafted in to lead the attack from the right side of midfield.

Kanu seized his opportunity and his goals helped Nationale win the Nigerian League. The team named the teenager Player of the Year.

Nationale had planned that Kanu would lead their attack in the African Champions Cup the next season, but Kanu had other ideas, and he left for Ajax.

"I have been a lucky person, especially in the way I rose to the top," says Kanu. But in Ajax luck doesn't count for much and Kanu was forced to spend time with the youth team.

"I didn't allow the big stars in the team to bother me. I followed my training very strictly, especially the fitness programme. I promised myself that if I ever got a chance in the senior team I would take it."

Born on August 1, 1976, Kanu knows the value of patience. At high school he was a brilliant student and his father, a car spare parts dealer, wanted him to be an engineer. His footballing ambitions were shared only by his elder brother, Godwin Kanu, a struggling player with a local Division Two side. But Kanu was patient and soon it paid off.

Midway into the 1993-94 season, Ajax suffered injuries to top players so coach Louis Van Gaal turned to the Ajax youth school to bring out a new generation of soccer artists. Nwankwo Kanu was one of them.

"When I was invited into the senior team, I couldn't believe it," says Kanu. "I knew my chance had come early because the top players were injured but I had promised myself that once I broke the barrier I would not go back to the junior team again."

Kanu's first game was as a substitute for Jari Litmanen against Utrecht. Despite his inspiring games as the season wound to a close, Kanu played no part in the Cup-winners Cup. But that season remains Kanu's best yet.

'I knew my chance had come early . . . but once I broke the barrier I was determined not to go back to the junior team'

"My greatest moment in football so far was when we won the League in 1994," says Kanu. This season he has built on the foundations of last year, scoring crucial goals for an Ajax side that has cruised to the Final of the Champions Cup and remained unbeaten in the Dutch League.

One match that stands out in Kanu's mind is the one against Milan in the Champions League. "That game is still like a dream to me. It turned me into a new player. Initially I was afraid of Maldini and Baresi but when I realised they were like any other player, I took them on, I became a man," said Kanu whose nickname in Nigeria is 'Papillo'.

Kanu struck a post twice and had a shot bounce off the the goalkeeper against Bayern Munich in Ajax's 5-2 thrashing of the Germans in the semi-final return leg in Amsterdam, a result which set up a dream final against Milan.

"We have beaten Milan twice before but it doesn't mean they are not good. Milan are any player's dream club and it will be a dream to play and win against them in the Final."

Despite his performances with Ajax, Kanu has yet to make an impact with the Nigerian national team. He made his debut for the Super Eagles against Sweden during the pre-World Cup tour last year, but Clemens Westerhof, then the national coach, overlooked Kanu "because he is not yet a tournament player". New coach Shoaib Amodhu picked him for the tie against England last November and used him for only three minutes.

"Playing against England was like another dream come true for me. I was disappointed when I was not called for the Riyadh trip [the Intercontinental Cup in Saudi Arabia] but I know that my time will soon come," Kanu said.

Kanu may not have to wait too long. A glorious performance in Vienna on May 24 would not only confirm his place in African soccer history. It would be another step towards one day realising his ultimate dream: to be the best player in the world.

OSE OYEMENDAN

YOUNGER

Demetrio Albertini is 23 years old, Nwankwo Kanu is just 18. But despite their tender years, both have key roles to play in the 1995 Champions Cup Final

"FOR ME, continuity is a magic word. When you play in my position, you're not allowed to have good and bad games, you've got to be consistent and I think I am.

"If you just look at the pictures of Cup and League-winning sides, and I've played for a fair few of them, you'll find I'm there. The headlines might be all for Van Basten, Baresi, Massaro or Baggio, but underneath the headlines, there I am in the team photo and that's enough for me."

So speaks Milan and Italy midfielder Demetrio Albertini. And if the above reads like conceited ravings, just reflect that at the ripe old age of 23 Albertini has already won three Italian championship medals and a Champions Cup medal, as well as losers' medals in a World Cup Final and another Champions Cup Final.

Beneath that youthful exterior lurks a tough, resilient and intelligent midfielder whose ability to look after himself and his strikers has made him an automatic selection for both Fabio Capello at Milan and Italy coach Arrigo Sacchi.

He made the point about being among the 'senators' in the Italian team in March on the eve of Italy's 4-1 home win against Estonia when he told reporters: "I'll be the vice-captain for this game because, apart from Maldini, nobody else in the side has more caps than me, with 25."

Albertini's professional career began with Milan in January 1989 when, as a 17-year-old, he went on for Dutchman Ruud Gullit towards the end of an easy 4-0 home League win against Como. Albertini had to wait another two seasons and spend an apprenticeship period with then Second Division Padova before making the break into the first team in the 1991-92 season, when Milan were first coached by Capello.

Since then Albertini has been an automatic choice: "It's true, I've been in the side for four years without a break and that despite the fact that I score few goals, hardly ever beat a man and never try a back-heel. How have I managed it? By playing to my strengths, which are based on the quantity of my game."

That successful first full season with Milan also saw Albertini's international career launched. Such was his influence on the championship-winning Milan side that by December of 1991, Arrigo Sacchi had called him into the side for a 2-0 European Championship win against Cyprus in Foggia.

Being the youngster in the pressure-laden Milan and Italy camps has not always been easy.

Remember these are footballing environments tense with rivalries and jeolousies: "I arrived in the Milan team in my first season directly from Division Two and all of a sudden I found myself playing for my place [28 out of 34 League games in that first full season] in one of the strongest sides in the world, one with a 25-player squad and with a crowded fixture list.

"For that reason, I admitted to being both physically and mentally tired every now and again. Maybe I use the word 'stress', anyway people began to use the concept against me, writing that I was stuck up, never satisfied and unaware of my good fortune."

On the contrary, he argues, he is more than aware of it.

His close, typically Italian links to his family help keep his feet on the ground.

One of three brothers, Albertini was brought up in a modest apartment in the little town of Villa Raverio, not far from Milan, where his father Giuseppe worked as a bricklayer and plasterer.

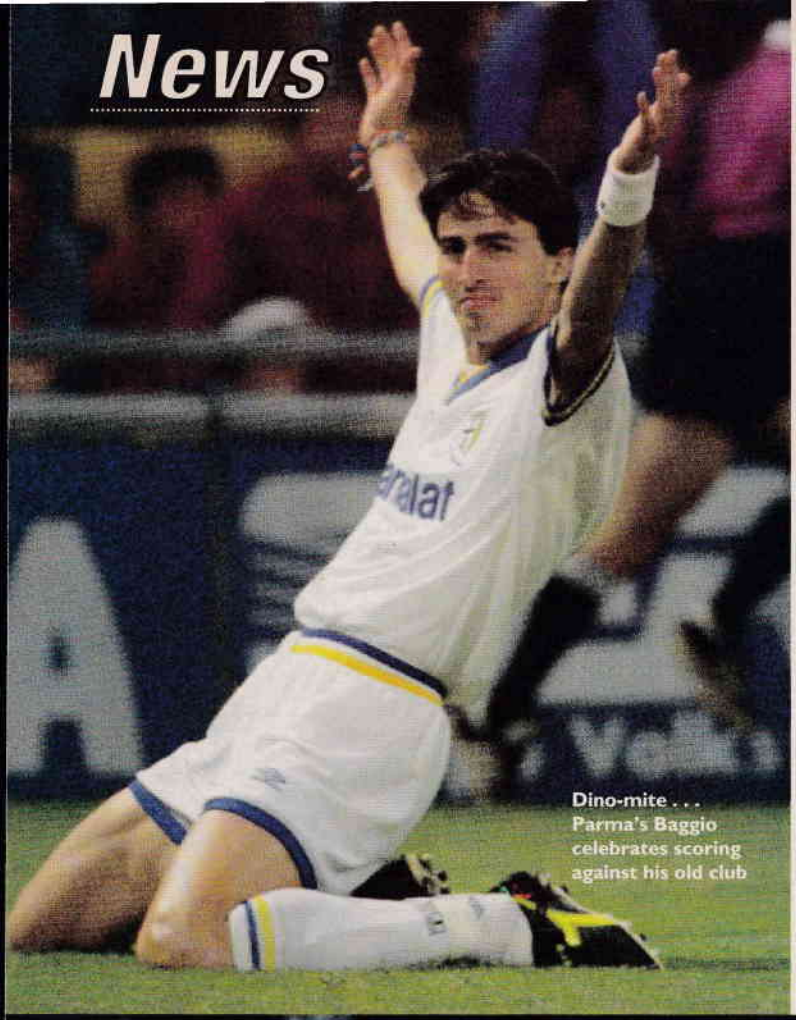
The famous son has no hesitation in acknowledging his family's role in his professional success, saying: "My family have helped me greatly to deal with this type of life – even if I've always been a bit of a cold fish, otherwise how could I have taken [and scored] a penalty kick in a World Cup Final?"

'At Milan we don't start counting our Cup wins until we have the trophy in our hands'

At least three years will pass before he gets another crack at a World Cup Final. In the meantime, he has the small matter of a Champions Cup Final against Ajax to consider – his third consecutive Final.

"We'll see. At Milan we don't get unduly depressed by a defeat and we don't start counting our Cup wins until we have the trophy in our hands."

PADDY AGNEW



Dino-mite . . . Parma's Baggio celebrates scoring against his old club

Dino's delight

AN EARLY revenge goal from midfielder Dino Baggio, in the fifth minute, provided Parma with first blood in the Final of a UEFA Cup, which continues to be dominated by Italian clubs.

No doubt Parma and Juventus will be sick of the sight of each other by the end of the season – this was the first of five meetings in two months.

Plenty of opportunities for everyone to make their point but nobody had greater incentive than the less-acclaimed Baggio, who left Juve for Parma last summer.

Baggio – no relation to Juve's Roberto – lifted a lob past goalkeeper Michelangelo Rampulla from the edge of the penalty box. The pass, inevitably, came from Gianfranco Zola, further enhancing his claim to be considered Italy's Footballer of the Year.

This was Juve's first defeat in this season's UEFA Cup but, considering that they lacked five regular defenders through suspension and injury, may well be considered a satisfactory result by coach Marcello Lippi.

Juve, missing Angelo Peruzzi, Ciro Ferrara and Jurgen Kohler among others, provided Parma with few other chances and had plenty of the play.

Parma may have won the football game but they lost the card game. Argentinian midfielder Nestor Sensini, defender Luigi Apolloni and midfielder Gabriele Pin received their second yellow cards of the tournament and will be automatically suspended for the second leg, on May 17.

As for Juventus, French midfielder Didier Deschamps and young defender Alessio Tacchinardi also face automatic suspension after receiving their second cautions.

The second leg will be played in Milan's San Siro, after Juve switched pending the resolution of complex negotiations with Turin council, owners of the Stadio delle Alpi.

Parma coach Nevio Scala remains confident. He said: "This was a good result for us. It's a victory and these European ties between clubs from the same country are on a different stage."

JONATHAN SHALLARD

UEFA CUP – *FINAL, 1ST LEG* *(MAY 3)*
PARMA 1 (D Baggio 5) **JUVENTUS 0**
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 26,350. **Ref:** Lopez Nieto (Spa).
Parma: Bucci – Benarrivo (Mussi 8), Di Chiara, Minotti, Apolloni, Fernando Couto, Pin, D Baggio, Sensini, Zola (Fiore 89), Asprilla.
Juventus: Rampulla – Fusi (Del Piero 72), Jarni, Tacchinardi, Carrera (Marocchi 46), Paolo Sousa, Di Livio, Deschamps, Vialli, R Baggio, Ravanelli.

Ronald's return

RONALD KOEMAN is set to leave Barcelona at the end of the season, to return to Holland with Feyenoord.

32-year-old Koeman, a former Dutch captain, has signed a two-year contract with the Rotterdam club, ending months of speculation about his future plans. At a news conference at Amsterdam's Schipol airport, Koeman *(left)* said: "I have decided to sign a contract for two years with Feyenoord. I chose this club because, from a sporting perspective, it is one of the three biggest in the Netherlands, and I've already played for the others [Ajax and PSV]."

Koeman, who won 78 caps for the Dutch national team, said he hoped he would be able to help Feyenoord improve their League position next season. The club are currently fifth in the Dutch First Division, and declined to give any financial details of the deal.

Koeman, who has won League titles with Ajax, PSV and Barcelona, scored 67 goals in 175 games for the Catalan giants, mostly from his thunderous free-kicks and penalties.

Koeman started his career as a 17-year-old with FC Groningen, where his father and brother Erwin are currently employed. He moved to Ajax in 1983, winning two Dutch titles, before enjoying a three-year spell with PSV, which brought him three more championship medals and the Champions Cup in 1988. That season culminated in Holland's victory in the European Championship in West Germany, with Koeman playing a key role.

He then moved to Barcelona, and enjoyed another period of huge success. During his seven seasons at Nou Camp, Koeman won four Spanish titles, the Spanish Cup, the Cup-winners Cup and the European Super Cup. But the highlight came at Wembley in May 1992, when his extra-time free-kick won Barca the Champions Cup for the first time in the club's illustrious history.

Koeman scored 14 goals for Holland in an international career which spanned a decade. He retired from international football after Holland's quarter-final defeat at USA '94.

Feyenoord, desperate to keep up with Ajax and PSV, are looking to significantly strengthen their squad for next season. Recent reports have linked them with Ruud Gullit, who played at Feyenoord a decade ago, and Jordi Cruyff.

Gullit claimed in a recent interview that Feyenoord have always been his favourite club, prompting chairman Jorien Van Den Herik to open a dialogue with him, while Cruyff junior has been having problems at Barcelona, where he is accused of being favoured because his father, Johan, is the coach. A loan move to Feyenoord has been suggested, and it could well be an ideal move for both clubs and the player.

Keir Radnedge

Commentary

Miljan's slavs seeking a place at the party

YUGOSLAVIA have launched an audacious bid to join in the European Championship party in England next year.

The Slavs, now comprising the rump state of Serbia and Montenegro, have been in international limbo since the Security Council of the United Nations decreed a political and financial exclusion which encompassed a suspension of sporting contacts, too.

That was in the spring of 1992. Yugoslavia had been due to play in the finals of the European Championship. They would have been among the favourites. Instead, their 2-0 defeat in Holland on March 25, 1992, was the last time a Yugoslav team was seen in competitive action.

FIFA and UEFA toed the United Nations line and Yugoslavia were suspended from Euro '92 – replacements Denmark won the event – and then from the 1994 World Cup.

Of course, the political ramifications over the desperately tragic events in the former Yugoslavia are highly complex. FIFA and UEFA have done well to let themselves be guided by the UN. But now comes the tricky bit. Last October the Security Council reduced the Yugoslav exclusion to 'probation' status. On April 22 that probation was extended for a further 75 days. It will expire in July. Then the UN must decide between a further extension or reduction in its terms.

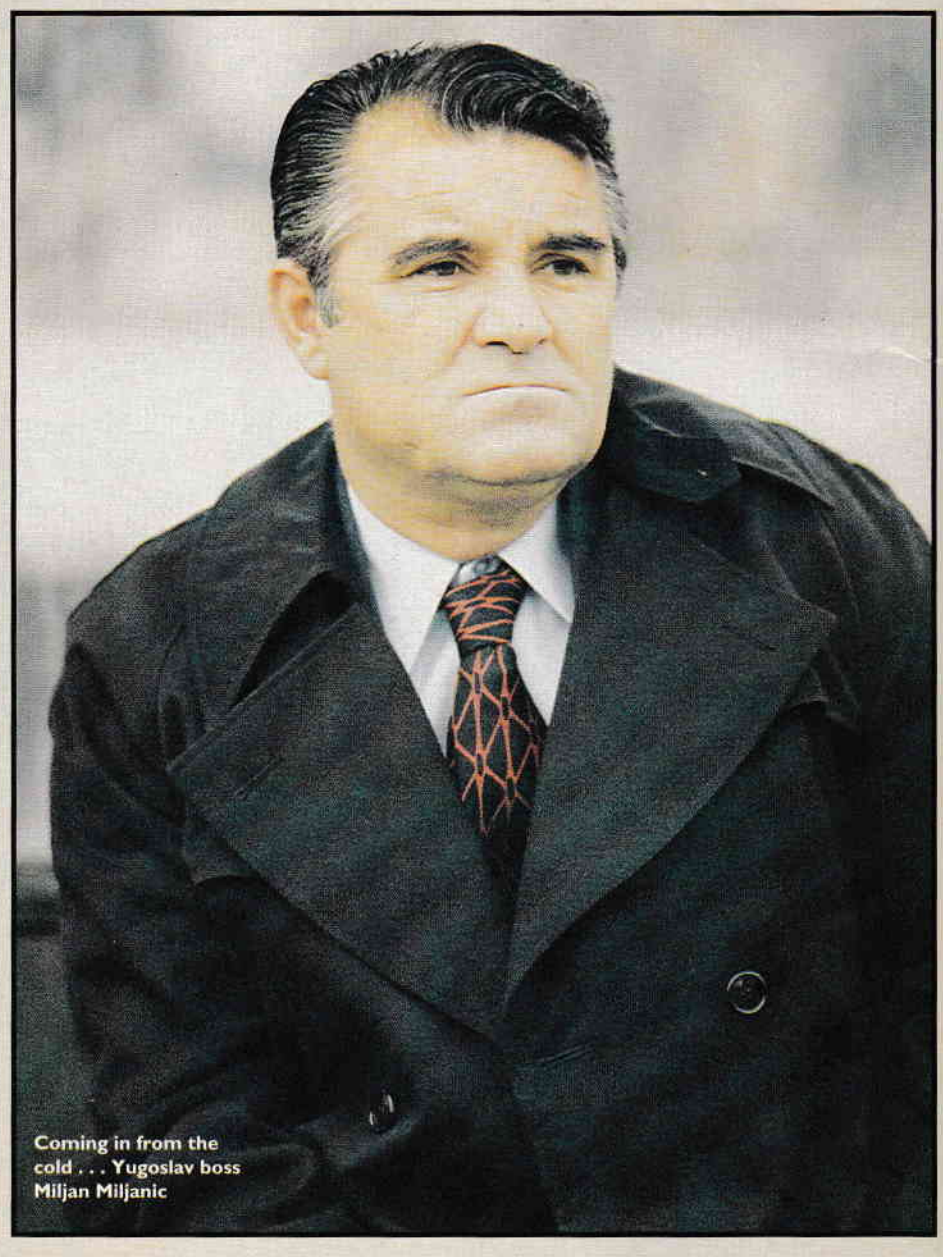
Football in Yugoslavia has no doubt. It is desperate for contact again with the outside world and Miljan Miljanic – once the most in-demand coach in Europe and now president of the new Slav Federation – believes he has the answer.

Already Miljanic has been encouraged by UEFA's decision (taken after consultation through FIFA with the UN) to allow two Slav clubs into the Intertoto Cup (as long as home matches are played in Belgrade). That presages a return of Slav teams to the competitive mainstream next season. UEFA's opening of the Intertoto door means it can envisage Slav clubs in the UEFA Cup, for which the Intertoto is a qualifying event. And, if clearance is available for the UEFA Cup then why not for next season's Champions Cup and Cup-winners Cup as well?

That, at any rate, is Miljanic's reasoning. Thus he has written to FIFA and UEFA with a remarkable proposal which could even mean Yugoslavia playing in next year's European Championship finals in England.

Miljanic, in his letter, wastes little time going over the past. Nothing can change what happened. But amends may yet be made in a manner which, he believes, would be entirely appropriate.

To understand Miljanic's proposal, it is first necessary to understand the complicated workings of the European Championship qualifying system. Hosts England and the eight group winners will qualify plus the six group runners-up with the best comparative records (discounting their results the bottom two teams in each group). The two runner-up nations with the poorest records would then play off. This should be in a one-off game on December 12, five days before the draw for the finals. Manchester United's Old Trafford had been favourite as the neutral venue but I understand that prospect has been scrapped.



Coming in from the cold . . . Yugoslav boss Miljan Miljanic

Now, says Miljanic, let my Yugoslavia turn the play-off into a three-team series. Let the 'bottom' runner-up play us and the winners play the remaining runners-up. This, he says, would be a fair and sporting way in which to resolve football's Yugoslav problem . . . and would be a reconciliatory gesture after the abrupt exclusion from the 1992 finals.

Ingenious, certainly. Fraught with problems, too.

But it's vital for Yugoslav football to return to something like the European competitive mainstream this year so as to feature in the draw – also in December – for the qualifying rounds of the 1998 World Cup.

Yugoslavia had long been considered a European Brazil, remarkable producer of a never-ending stream of football talent. On that basis they would be welcomed back. But not at the expense of security. That was, after all, the main concern for UEFA when the Slavs were kicked out of Euro '92.

And if there is one thing which football administators should have learned over recent years, it is that security should NEVER be compromised.

Fanning the flames

WE HEAR plenty about the terrible pressures on referees, players, managers and directors. Nothing about the pressures on fans. But pressure exists and it is whipped up by the circus which is professional football at the highest level.

The evidence is plain – and painful. At home Eric Cantona was verbally assailed by a fan at Selhurst Park, then Wolves manager Graham Taylor was spat on by a fan at Sheffield United. Abroad, Benfica's Argentinian striker Claudio Caniggia needed stitches in head wounds and another referee, this time in Greece, was ambushed by vengeful 'supporters' (earlier this season referees were beaten up in both Cyprus and Albania).

Caniggia caught the fans' wrath after being sent off as blundering Benfica stumbled to their ultimate embarrassment, a 2-1 defeat by Sporting.

Horrifically, Caniggia was struck in the face with a rock and a cocktail glass by a group of teenagers who surrounded his car on the narrow streets of the old city. Fortunately, Caniggia was able to drive away and checked into hospital where gashes to his face and head were stitched. Inevitably, he will not now even consider extending his Lisbon stay before the end of this term, when his one-year loan from AS Roma expires. As his agent, Settimio Aloisio, says: "The attack did not badly hurt his body, but his heart."

Poor Caniggia – rather than coach Artur Jorge, oddly enough – has taken perhaps the brunt of the Benfica fans' anger over their collapsing season.

Ironically, I understand from a source close to his family – as we are constrained to say in such circumstances – that Caniggia believes the only place he will find comparative peace next season in football terms is . . . Argentina.

As for the latest referee assault, this followed the Greek Cup final in which Panathinaikos beat old rivals AEK Athens with a penalty in the last minute of extra time. As is the Greek custom, the match itself encompassed plenty of fire and fireworks with players, officials and directors skirmishing in the tunnel at half-time and then again in the wake of the penalty award.

Referee Filipos Bakas may be accused of many things by Greek fans, but a lack of courage would not be among them. It takes real bottle to award a penalty in the last minute of one of Athens' 'old firm' league games – never mind the Cup final!

He also sent off internationals Stelios Manolas and Michalis Vlachos for pushing him in the ensuing melee. No wonder Greek referees followed up by going on strike the next weekend.

What was so chilling about the Bakas incident is that the youths, claiming to be AEK fans, who ambushed him, did so two days AFTER the final in what was clearly a premeditated attack. He was about to drive to Athens airport to catch a flight for a game in southern Greece, when he was dragged from his car and beaten up. Amazingly, after hospital treatment for 'only cuts and bruises,' he was able to go home with no bones broken.

The referees' association furiously condemned "this cowardly and inhuman attack," and fulminated against players, coaches, directors and journalists who methodically and persistently have worked to destroy the credibility of referees. Its statement added: "If disciplinary policies in these matters are not changed, the situation will worsen and soccer's collapse will be complete and final."

So, players, managers and referees need bodyguards now. Nothing new in that. Diego Maradona has long employed 'minders' and so has Romario since his return to Brazil. Indeed, legal action looms over a skirmish between the bodyguard and a photographer anxious to snap Romario and his latest girlfriend enjoying a night on the town.

So where do we stand? Have we hyped football beyond the bounds of commonsense, beyond the limits of human enjoyment? Should we in the media, who wring our hands in anguish over the escalating rounds of intolerance, be blamed for turning football into something more important than life and death?

Come to think of it, of course, it was not a hack but a manager, one Bill Shankly, who delivered that immortal line . . . some 30 years ago, at that.

Everyone, at the time, treated it as a joke. Eric Cantona, Graham Taylor, Claudio Caniggia and Filipos Bakas might not see the funny side.

Neither should anyone else in the game, any more.

Foreign domination

NO pleasing some people. Jurgen Klinsmann has been voted Footballer of the Year and Brian Laudrup has been voted Footballer of the Year in Scotland.

The award announcements, within two days of each other, prompted suggestions that the British game must be in a sorry old state when both top player awards went to foreigners.

Those who criticised were probably also the moaners who, in the past, have griped about xenophobic thinking in the domestic game.

Seems to me that Klinsmann and Laudrup have been in a class of their own.

I understand that all but one of the votes in the Scottish football writers' poll was for Laudrup. The odd vote out? It went to Hibernian goalkeeper Jim Leighton.

Northern star: Scottish player of the year Brian Laudrup

Sky's the absolute limit

HAS THE British sports media overstated the extent of the *Sky Sports* revolution? I ask out of simple curiosity now that most newspapers run Sport-on-TV columns and one of the liveliest, by Norman Giller in *The Sunday Express*, is dominated by *Sky's* activities.

It's understandable, of course, but for the wrong reasons. On the one hand, three daily newspapers (*Times, Today and Sun*) are owned by the man who owns *Sky*. Secondly, every newspaper tunes its office TV monitors to *Sky*, for obvious reasons, on big-match nights (They have no problem, of course, with the subscription fees).

Yet, with advance lines already being drawn ahead of the next Premiership TV auction, let's not forget . . .

The majority of armchair fans still see TV sport via *BBC* and *ITV*. The game itself ignores that factor at its peril.

Working for the Yankee Dollar

THE hopeless innocence with which the British media view the rest of the world never ceases to amaze and irritate. In the tabloid world, Brazilians are 'brilliant,' Argentinians are 'cynical,' Italians are 'lire-laden, etc etc.

The latest generalisation is that the new United States league, Major League Soccer, is going to a millionaire players' paradise. If it ever gets off the ground.

George Graham, ousted by Arsenal, is just one in a string of names linked with 'untold riches' in US soccer.

Well, there may be riches there. But they belong to the entrepreneurs considering whether to back Alan Rothenberg's venture.

Rothenberg has always insisted that MLS, to work in a highly competitive sports environment, needs to keep payment levels down. No superstar fees, this time. Unlike the old NASL. Sorry, lads!

Stateside bound? . . . George Graham

gently does it

Chris James talks to Roy Evans about the softly, softly approach which has taken Liverpool back into European competition

THE final whistle at Wembley in April sounded something more significant than Liverpool's Coca-Cola Cup triumph over Bolton. It heralded their return to the European stage which they adorned in an unbroken 21-year spell until the Heysel tragedy in 1985.

For Roy Evans, a modest homespun person, that victory beneath the twin towers was the first major step towards fulfilling a lifetime's ambition. Evans had not only managed Liverpool to a trophy but had achieved his minimum objective in his first full season as manager by leading his team back into continental competition next season.

Greying 46-year-old Evans is the epitome of the local boy made good. As a youngster he stood on the Kop and later, as an outstanding teenage player, he was a member of the England Schoolboys squad. He was recruited for Liverpool by the man whose achievements in lifting the club from the Second Division to among the European elite, made him a legend in his own lifetime – Bill Shankly.

Now all that Evans does bears the 'Shanks' hallmark – simple, straightforward, honest, no frills.

He was promoted after almost 20 years apprenticeship in the boot-room to repair the damage done during the turbulent reign of Graeme Souness.

Despite distinguishing himself as a player, his managerial success at Rangers and lavish spending in the transfer market, Souness rarely looked likely to emulate those he had followed at Anfield. In 1993 Liverpool failed to qualify for Europe for the first time in 29 years. Even during the post-Heysel ban, Liverpool's domestic success would have seen them qualify.

That failure came against a background liberally sprinkled with honours from their campaigns abroad – four European Cup victories, two UEFA Cup wins and the runners-up spot in both Cup-winners Cup and European Cup. The record made them feared by most continental teams and had been established by the passion of Shankly, the tactical wit of Bob Paisley, the calming influence of Joe Fagan and the astuteness of Kenny Dalglish.

When the foundations of a second successive failure to qualify had been laid last year, Liverpool dismissed Souness and reverted to tradition by belatedly promoting Evans.

"The first thing I had to do was to return to the old Liverpool way of doing things," he said.

"Shanks always preached that football was a simple game. If you concentrate on doing the simple things well, everything else falls into place.

"Even when we were winning the European Cup and the League there was no secret formula, as many people seemed to believe. A mystique built up about the old boot-room at Anfield as if the people in there were waving magic wands.

"It was nothing more than a quiet little cubbyhole where all the coaches got together, talked football and pooled their thoughts and ideas. But that's Liverpool – everybody from the boardroom to the tea-lady working together with a common cause.

"Our first priority every season has been to qualify for Europe, and by doing that we would have had either to win a Cup or finish high up in the League.

"European revenue helped the earlier redevelopment of Anfield and helped the club to compete for the best players at the top end of the transfer market.

"Once you break a cycle it is sometimes very difficult to restore, which is why qualifying for Europe again was so important and why it will again be our top priority at the start of next season.

"Europe is good for the players because it broadens their experiences. On their travels they encounter different cultures, temperaments and, more importantly, different styles of football. They are forced to learn and adapt, which in itself can make them better players.

In a similar fashion Shanks and, particularly, Bob Paisley and Joe Fagan, developed a more European style in Liverpool's football, which Kenny Dalglish continued.

"The three Ps – patience, possession and passing – became the essentials, especially in the home legs, when even the most humble team could make it very difficult with a well-organised defensive formation. If, in the away leg, you can add to that the pace, vision and skill to catch opponents on the break, you are then in with a chance.

"We are in the UEFA Cup next season and I'm sure Europe as a whole is glad we're back. After all, only Real Madrid and Milan have won the European Cup, the blue riband, more times than us.

"Despite our absence, Liverpool are still regarded abroad as one of the biggest clubs in the world, and it is my ambition to qualify for the top prize in Europe by winning our own League and to bring the Champions Cup to Anfield for a fifth time."

Evans has made his own mark by introducing a three-man back line with two 'wing-backs' to both add width and weight to attack and additional strength to defence.

He has rekindled the family atmosphere and harmony in the dressing room also, which had been another Anfield tradition until rumours of factions and discontent spread during Souness's reign.

Liverpool's partial revival has been achieved by a basically young squad, with only Ian Rush, John Barnes, Jan Molby, Mark Wright, Paul Stewart and Mark Walters over 30.

'The boot-room was nothing more than a quiet little cubbyhole where all t
But that's Liverpool – everybody from the boardroom to the tea-lady workin

The experience of the older Anfield players will help youngsters such as Robbie Fowler come to terms with European club football as they try to justify their place among the favourites for the UEFA Cup.

If that happens, it will be only the beginning as far as Evans is concerned.

He will not feel the ultimate in job satisfaction until the League Championship and the European Cup are back in the Anfield trophy cabinet.

Reds return

TOMMY SMITH, who appeared in the finals of all three European club competitions for Liverpool in the 1970s, believes the current side can win the UEFA Cup next season.

Liverpool's era as the most feared team in Europe began when Smith was their captain before he bowed out with a goal in the club's first European Cup success in 1977.

That came 11 years after Smith and Liverpool's first final, defeat in the European Cup-winners Cup to Borussia Dortmund. Now, 10 years after their ill-fated last appearance in a European final at Heysel, Liverpool are on the verge of another great adventure.

That first final game came five years before the birth of Steve McManaman, the man whose goals against Bolton in the League Cup Final booked next season's place in the UEFA Cup. Smith, now 40, believes exciting youngsters such as McManaman, Rob Jones, Jamie Redknapp and Robbie Fowler could bring another European trophy back to Anfield.

"Heysel set Liverpool and the English game a long way back in terms of European competition," Smith says. "The authorities were only too happy to throw the English sides out because they were winning everything and it suited them not to act too quickly in bringing the English clubs back. But Liverpool have again got a good side."

The likes of Jones, Redknapp and McManaman are very promising and Fowler is the most exciting player I've seen for years.

"They will also benefit from Liverpool's reputation in Europe. People still fear Liverpool - unlike Blackburn who found it very hard."

Smith signed for Liverpool as a 15-year-old on £7 a week. Although he had chances to join Stoke, Manchester United and Arsenal during his time at Anfield he stayed for 15 years before finishing his career with a season at Swansea.

"I never wanted to leave. I was a Liverpool lad and loved the club," Smith adds. "There was such an amazing team spirit. Everyone socialised together and the older players would keep the younger players in line. The staff gave us a lot of freedom because they knew the Liverpool way would be handed down from player to player."

Smith believes that the current Liverpool side are regaining that spirit but are going into the hardest of the three European competitions. "You meet teams on their way up in the UEFA Cup whereas teams have often passed their peak in the European Cup," he says.

"That's what we found as players. Because the Italians and Spaniards controlled the European scene for so long Liverpool took many years to gain the fear factor that helped make them so successful. The UEFA Cup came first, in 1973, and the European Cup followed soon after. By then teams were terrified of us."

Reds fan . . . Tommy Smith

Liverpool's ability to retain possession and silence hostile European crowds was legendary, but the skills they learned to employ on the pitch came after they had mastered the art of survival away from home.

Smith says: "Our idea of being good hosts was to look after the opposition and make sure every facility was available for them.

"But when we went away we faced constant problems, all over Europe. Telephone calls in the hotel rooms throughout the night, fans driving past and sounding their horns, two-hour waits for a cup of tea, locked windows and pumped up heating to make you sweat, with thousands waiting outside the hotel to spit and shout at you as you came out.

"At the stadium the dressing room key would go missing, the showers wouldn't work and so on. We used to go on four-day trips for our early games in Europe. That soon became a late flight on the night before a game, eating on the plane to avoid the hotel food when we got there, and we would fly out as soon as the match was over."

NICK CALLOW

The big one . . . from left, Lawler, Evans, Fagan and Moran enjoy the 1984 win

coaches got together and talked football. together with a common cause"

sweet FA's

DAVID PROLE looks back on 50 years of Wembley Cup Finals

THIS season's FA Cup Final is the 50th since soccer picked up the pieces after the Hitler War and got on with a game sorely wounded but in great heart.

Now months of controversy are ending, with millions of people longing for the biggest club event of the lot to live up to its reputation and produce a showpiece.

Since August, English soccer has been a catalogue of catastrophe, a saga of sleaze, that has obscured most of what good there has been. No wonder so many people are keen for Manchester United and Everton to give us all a lift by putting on a show of football's arts, without the punctuation of snarling confrontation between players, rows over referees, and violence among spectators.

There are players capable of doing so. Even without Cantona, even though so many League points have been squandered, United have a string of quality captures still full of ambition no matter how many honours they have collected. One, Mark Hughes, will set a record for Wembley FA Cup Finals if he takes a fourth winning medal: last season he became only the 17th man with three.

A comparison of the playing staffs indicates that Everton have little chance, but that has been said of several Wembley winners – not all of them in the distant past.

Joe Royle, a losing player in 1968, later served a long managerial apprenticeship with Oldham before returning to his first club. The turnabout since then has been remarkable and those who know their Final history will not be too surprised if Royle follows managers such as Livingstone (Newcastle 1955), Buckingham and Ashman (West Bromwich 1954 and 1968) and Lyall (West Ham 1975) in winning this trophy in his first season

For a club with so many supporters, United are remarkably unpopular. And so although the head says United to win, the heart is with Everton, if only because they have come back from a bad spell, so bad that lesser clubs would have crumbled.

We all hope for a match fit to put before royal princes. But do not be surprised if we do not get one. There have been so many Final disappointments before now.

But the FA Cup is still a great contest and we have had half a century of wondrous feats to look back on, haven't we?

I first saw Wembley in 1946, when I was a kid and the stadium was still bright and fresh, full of magic and not ankle-deep in litter. I've seen it dozens of times since, building up a stack of memories.

Such as Arsenal, oddly attired in gold shirts, repulsing everything my Liverpool heroes could throw at them in the drizzle of 1950, and again in the blazing heat of 1971. Such as Newcastle, demons in those licorice-allsort stripes, seeing off Blackpool in 1951, with Jackie Milburn's two dazzling goals, and wearing down Arsenal a year later, then doing the same to Manchester City in 1955, despite the heroics performed by Bert Trautmann, the best goalkeeper I've ever seen. Such as gallant Preston's resistance to a vibrant young West Ham in 1964, when they were level or in front for all but the last 30 seconds, and then missed promotion as well.

I think of the lucky ones, like Jimmy Greenhoff, for ever credited with a goal for Manchester United in 1977 when a shot going for a corner flag hit him and looped into the Liverpool net. Like Roger Osborne in 1978, given one chance and scoring the only FA Cup goal of his 12-year career at Ipswich, after they had hit one Arsenal bar and two Arsenal posts. Like Trevor Brooking of West Ham two years later, again with Arsenal on the wrong end, scoring the winner "when the ball hit me on the head and went in".

And David O'Leary, twice a winner with Arsenal, 14 years apart, and both times by a goal in the last minute. The other side of that particular coin concerns Douglas Holden, a last-minute loser with Bolton in 1953 and with Preston in 1964.

That Bolton team were perhaps the unluckiest losers of all, after hanging on with nine fit men, only to concede two goals in the last three minutes to a team inspired by the 38-year-old youngster gambolling down Blackpool's right wing. Stanley Matthews, of course.

I was lucky enough to be in the crowd behind the goal Bolton defended in the second half, on leave from national service, clutching my 3s. 6d. ticket (what it was to have a father with a bit of influence) and screaming myself hoarse as the old sorcerer weaved his spells. Among the pomp and circumstance, the goals and the misses and the injuries – remember that gloomy run of breaking bones and tearing ligaments, almost one a year from 1952 to 1961? – Matthews takes first place for an individual performance.

But the prize for THE outstanding single moment, THE match-turning piece of inspiration, goes to a player who gained few medals during a longish career, and even at his peak could pass unnoticed in virtually any street.

Jim Montgomery's save from Peter Lorimer in the Sunderland-Leeds game of 1973 defied all logic. Trevor Cherry's diving header had brought a good stop from Monty, but Lorimer – a splendid and notably calm taker of chances – had virtually the whole net to aim at when the rebound reached him. "One-one" says the voice on the video, and so we all thought. But somehow, Monty stopped it. We didn't believe it then, and we can hardly believe it now.

Sunderland, inspired, held on to win with Porterfield's early goal. They did not have an international in their team, although some went on to earn such honours: Leeds had 10 plus Cherry, later capped (and to lose some teeth in his country's service).

Leeds, figuratively, lost their collective teeth that day. Only rarely have they been much of a force in the game since. Nor have Sunderland. But the parade of teams and individuals goes on, and the FA Cup Final is still a day for historians to savour, the climax of soccer's greatest tournament.

Bar none.

Unbearable . . . West Brom goalkeeper Sanders cannot watch as Allen scores from a penalty in 1954

Unstoppable . . . George blasts Arsenal's winner against Liverpool in 1971

Incredible . . . Sunderland's last-minute winner for Arsenal in 1979

Unforgettable . . . Montgomery's save against Leeds in 1973

BY PADDY AGNEW

Serie A is alive with the sound of hiring and firing as the clubs left trailing in the wake of the Parma-Juventus battle for honours look ahead to next season

Trading places

Staying put . . . Baresi has extended his Milan contract

Shipping out . . . Massaro is heading for Japan

GIVEN the Juventus-Parma domination of the Italian Championship and Cup (and the UEFA Cup), the other forces in Italian soccer have had little option but to go back to the drawing board, making plans for the 1995-96 season.

Milan, Internazionale, Lazio, Roma, Fiorentina and Cagliari, the sides in contention for the four Italian UEFA Cup berths next season, have been setting about the new season, primarily through the hiring and firing of players.

Even outgoing champions Milan – the other side with something to show for their season by way of a Champions Cup Final appearance in Vienna – have been busy designing the future shape of things. If their decision to extend or confirm the contracts of stars such as Paolo Maldini (until the year 2000), Montenegrin Dejan Savicevic ('98), Croat Zvonimir Boban ('99), Frenchman Marcel Desailly ('98) and Demetrio Albertini ('99) could hardly be considered a surprise, the same cannot be said about the renewal of 35-year-old Franco Baresi's contract.

Baresi, the Milan captain, sweeper and standard bearer, had been expected to head for the lure of the yen and accept a contract in Japan. But he is a timid man (off the pitch!) and one whose sense of loyalty is reflected in the fact that he has been with Milan since the age of 15, playing 17 first-class seasons with them. So there is a logic to his decision to stay with what he knows best. Nor will it represent a huge financial sacrifice: Baresi is expected to continue to earn his current annual salary of £800,000 plus bonuses.

Milan coach Fabio Capello hinted at the thinking behind the decision when saying that in future he expected Baresi to help him on the training ground, both by his example and by making vast experience available to younger team-mates. It could be that Baresi's final season (one presumes) sees him take on ever more the role of player-coach as he prepares for a non-playing future that seems certain to keep him with Milan.

With the exception of Japan-bound, 33-year-old striker Daniele Massaro, Milan have extended the contract of almost every squad player, including 'senators' such as Mauro Tassotti, 35, Filippo Galli, 32, and Roberto Donadoni, 31.

Furthermore, Liberian-cum-naturalised-Frenchman George Weah is expected to join Milan from Paris Saint Germain before the end of the season to provide the side with the powerful centre-forward they have been lacking ever since Dutchman Marco Van Basten's fragile ankles finally gave out two years ago.

City rivals Inter have also continued to make plans. Having failed to tempt Frenchman Eric Cantona away from English champions Manchester United, Inter have responded by firstly confirming existing players and then by moving to other targets on the international market place.

The new owner, petrol millionaire Massimo Moratti (after two months of negotiation he eventually bought Inter from Ernesto Pellegrini for £16million – cheap at the price, too) could have made a shrewd move in deciding to stay with coach Ottavio Bianchi, rather than go looking for either a foreigner or a younger man.

Moratti's arrival has been followed by a remarkable upturn in form, with only Parma beating Inter in the first 10 weeks since he declared his interest. That recovery has led not only to Bianchi's confirmation but also to a rethink on a number of players, including Uruguayan Ruben Sosa and Dutchman Dennis Bergkamp, both seemingly destined for sale but now certain to stay with Inter for next season.

At least two others, however, are on their way from Inter. Macedonian Darko Pancev is one (destination unknown, although Celtic have been mentioned) and Dutchman Wim Jonk, who has confirmed his return to his native land, joining PSV Eindhoven.

Jonk's transfer could yet become an exchange deal that takes Brazilian Ronaldo to Inter and could mean the Philips insignia being advertised on the Inter shirts in 1995-96. Philips, of course, are the Eindhoven-based electricals giant who own PSV (Philips Sport Vereinging).

Further Inter plans concern striker Maurizio Ganz from Second Division Atalanta. He scored 14 goals in a good First Division run two seasons ago and could prove a handy buy.

Of the sides left scraping around in the Juventus-Parma trail-blazing dust, none has more reason to feel disap-

Moving on . . . Pancev will leave Inter

pointed than Lazio, one of the great pretenders of the last three seasons.

They slipped out of the title contest, were eliminated by a 91st-minute goal from Borussia Dortmund in a UEFA Cup quarter-final, and lost an Italian Cup semi-final tie to Juventus, all in a three-week period.

Just as well for the club's Bohemian coach, Zdenek Zeman, in his first year at the difficult 'piazza' of Lazio, that the side won the second derby of the season against city rivals Roma, 2-0. That victory not only atoned for a 3-0 loss in the first derby but confirmed Zeman's position for next season while seeming to indicate the end of the Italian road for Paul Gascoigne.

He made a welcome return against Reggiana almost exactly a year after breaking his right leg in a training accident, and had been expected to play out the rest of the season, if only to allow Lazio to assess his future with them.

Two weeks after that return game, however, Zeman appeared to have done all the assessing he required when he opted to drop Gascoigne for the vital derby. When Zeman's own neck was on the line, he simply did not trust Gascoigne.

A week later Gascoigne was dropped for a home game against Cagliari, then went on for the final half-hour. Whereupon Zeman said: "It's no coincidence that Cagliari had their best chances when Gascoigne was on the field."

The club's owner, Sergio Cragnotti, had seemingly put Gascoigne on the market when saying: "I believe our present squad is very competitive but the last word goes to Zeman. We all know that several English clubs are interested in Gascoigne but before making a move I want to hear what our coach considers the ideal Lazio team to be. An eventual divorce, however, won't be traumatic."

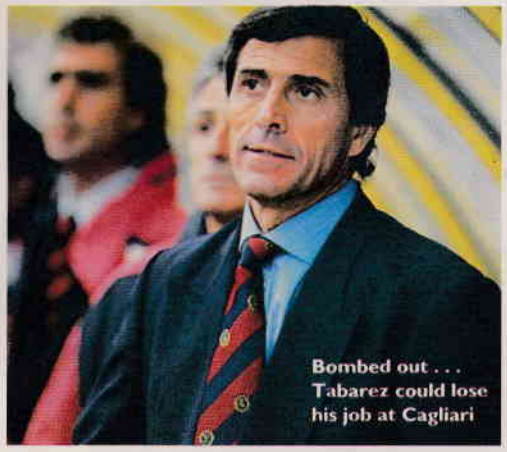
While Gascoigne goes, Dutch midfielder Aron Winter, Argentinian defender Jose Chamot and Croat striker Alen Boksic all stay, as Lazio once more set about the difficult task of keeping their promises of future success.

Neighbours Roma probably will offload underused Swede Jonas Thern, while sticking to the Latin American trio of Brazilian Aldair, Uruguayan Daniel Fonseca and Argentinian Abel Balbo.

● UEFA Cup outsiders Cagliari seem to have tempted Giovanni Trapattoni back to Italy from Bayern Munich, where he has had a season that can only be called mediocre by Bayern's high standards.

Trapattoni's return means that the current Cagliari coach, Uruguayan Oscar Tabarez, could be out of work by the end of the season.

Tabarez had been widely tipped to take over at Internazionale, but owner Moratti's decision to stick with Ottavio Bianchi scuppered that move. Given his successful first season in Italy and given the seemingly endless musical chairs involving coaching posts in Italy, Tabarez may not be jobless for long.



Bombed out . . . Tabarez could lose his job at Cagliari

Andrea Fortunato 1971-95

ANDREA FORTUNATO, the talented Juventus defender who contracted leukemia a year ago, has died in a local hospital, aged 23.

Doctors reported that the player, who had made his debut with the Italian national team just before being stricken by the disease, succumbed to pneumonia.

Fortunato's death shocked Italian players preparing for the European Championship qualifying game against Lithuania in Vilnius

One, Fabrizio Ravanelli, was so upset that he refused to play in the match, in which all the players wore black armbands as a mark of respect.

Fortunato, considered one of the most promising Italian defenders, was transferred to Juventus from Genoa in 1993, playing 27 games in his first season with the Turin team. Leukemia had been diagnosed by club doctors last May.

Familiar foes meet in final

PARMA and JUVENTUS will get to know each other very, very well over the next few weeks.

The top two in this season's Serie A meet each other no less than FIVE times in the space of five weeks, with the destination of three trophies resting on the outcome of their meetings.

First up is the UEFA Cup Final. Parma won the first leg, at home, thanks to a fifth-minute goal by Dino Baggio, a former Juventus player. The close result leaves the tie to be decided, not at Juve's Stadio delle Alpi, but at Milan's San Siro. The switch was made as part of Juve's on-going dispute with the delle Alpi's owners, but there should still be a full-house in Milan.

Then, on May 21, the two clubs meet in a crucial Serie A match which could decide the destination of the title.

That had looked a formality until Juve's shock home defeat by Padova, which let Parma back into the race for the title. If Parma keep on winning, then any further slips by Juventus could mean the title race will go to the wire.

Finally, in June, the two clash in the Italian Cup Final. The first leg, on June 4 is in Turin – provisionally – with the return a fortnight later in Parma.

PATHS TO THE 1995 ITALIAN CUP FINAL

2ND RND – 1ST LEG
JUVENTUS 0 CHIEVO 0 — PARMA 4 PERUGIA 0

2ND RND – 2ND LEG
CHIEVO 1 JUVENTUS 3 — PERUGIA 1 PARMA 0
Juventus 3-1 on agg — *Parma 4-1 on agg*

3RD RND – 1ST LEG
JUVENTUS 2 REGGIANA 0 — PARMA 2 CAGLIARI 0

3RD RND – 2ND LEG
REGGIANA 2 JUVENTUS 1 — CAGLIARI 1 PARMA 1
Juventus 3-2 on agg — *Parma 3-1 on agg*

QUARTER-FINALS – 1ST LEG
JUVENTUS 3 AS ROMA 0 — PARMA 2 FIORENTINA 0

QUARTER-FINALS – 2ND LEG
AS ROMA 3 JUVENTUS 1 — FIORENTINA 1 PARMA 2
Juventus 4-3 on agg — *Parma 4-1 on agg*

SEMI-FINALS – 1ST LEG
LAZIO 0 JUVENTUS 1 — FOGGIA 1 PARMA 1

SEMI-FINALS – 2ND LEG
JUVENTUS 2 LAZIO 1 — PARMA 3 FOGGIA 1
Juventus 3-1 on agg — *Parma 4-2 on agg*

BY GRAHAM TURNER

Zubi or not Zubi? Is Zubizarreta, capped for the 100th time against Armenia, Spain's best ever? That is the question

The Centurion

ANDONI ZUBIZARRETA'S appearance against Armenia, four days after making his 500th appearance in the Spanish League, saw him become the first Spanish player to be capped 100 times.

The value of his achievement should not be underestimated. The previous record was set by Real Madrid left-back Jose Antonio Camacho – now manager at Espanyol – with 81 caps. Way back in the distance are living legends of Spanish soccer such as Rafael Gordillo (75), Emilio Butragueno (69), Luis Arconada (68) and Michel (66). European Footballer of the Year Luis Suarez represented his country only 32 times.

Jose Angel Iribar, Zubizarreta's childhood hero and the keeper who taught him his trade on the Bilbao training ground at Lezama, won 49 caps. At 33, 'Zubi' is unlikely to say 100 and out. A quitter would have hung up his gloves long ago.

As a 19-year-old, he was put under the microscope at San Mames when Javier Clemente, Bilbao manager at the time, controversially named him successor to Iribar, ahead of seemingly more appropriate candidates.

On September 19, 1981, Clemente threw him in at the deep end in an away match against Atletico Madrid and the youngster who had grown up at Arechavaleta, Alaves and the Bilbao youth scheme, proved he could swim.

When Terry Venables paid £500,000 to take him to Barcelona a few days before their European Cup final defeat against Steaua Bucharest in 1986, he faced another tricky task – winning over fans at Nou Camp who idolised his predecessor, Javier Urruticoechea. This intruder from the Basque country promptly went 10 games without conceding a goal and ended up winning a cupboard full of trophies in eight magnificent seasons.

On January 23, 1985, Zubizarreta replaced Luis Arconada at half-time in Spain's 3-1 over Finland in Alicante. Subsequently, against hell, high water and the critics in Madrid who consistently campaign for Real's Paco Buyo, he has held on to the gloves under Miguel Munoz, Luis Suarez, Vicente Miera and Javier Clemente.

Johan Cruyff breezed into Barcelona during the summer of 1988 and demanded a keeper-sweeper similar to Stanley Menzo whom he had nurtured at Ajax.

Zubizarreta didn't fit the bill and, as if to make a point, Cruyff fielded him at left-back in a pre-season game. But he gritted his teeth, polished up his ball skills, improved his sprinting and won somewhat grudging approval from Cruyff, until last summer.

Then, on the team bus driving away from the stadium in Athens after the 4-0 Champions Cup final defeat by Milan, he was asked to leave.

Off he went to Valencia to take over from another local idol, Pedro Sempere, his latest battle.

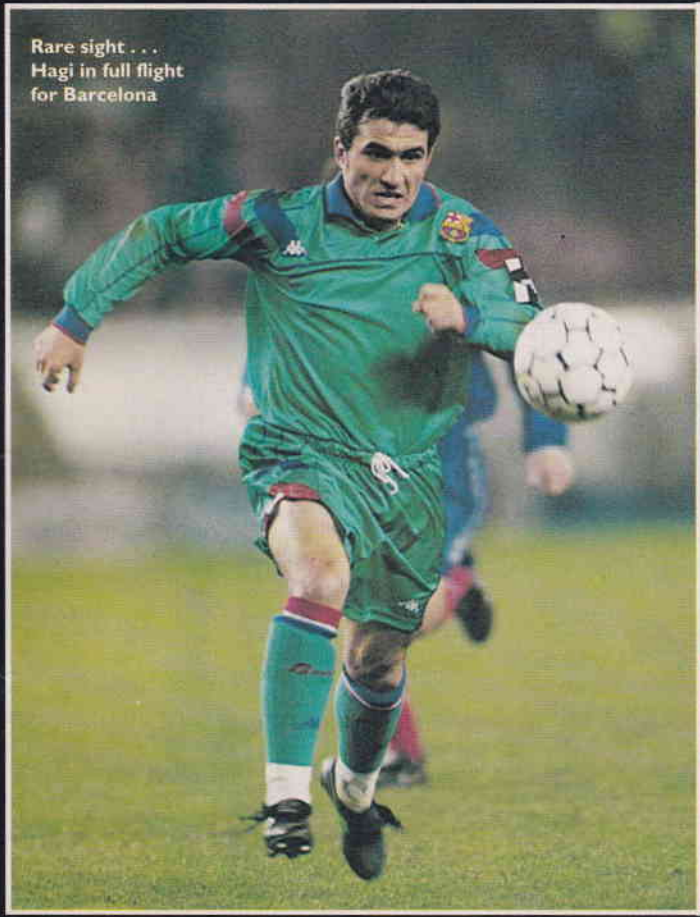
'Zubi' admits that his career has been one long, hard examination, illustrated by the fierce criticism he received for failing to stop a single Belgian penalty during the first of his three World Cups in 1986. Perversely, he was blamed for that quarter-final elimination and took two years to shake off the label of penalty-spot loser.

"Maybe that is why I have never considered myself a star," he reflects. "I've never stopped being asked questions and I've never been able to stop looking for answers. In that sense, it is perhaps appropriate that my 100th game should be somewhere like Armenia and not in a grandiose stadium like Wembley or San Siro."

Wembley provides another clue to Zubi's character and his value within a dressing room. Despite wearing the armband during the 1992 Champions Cup victory over Sampdoria, he insisted that Jose Ramon Alexanko go up to receive the trophy. "Maybe the only time the winning captain hasn't lifted it?" he asks.

He modestly scurries off to a corner and smilingly asks if anyone has noticed his absence from the team photos.

ZUBI IN NUMBERS:
Appearances: League 500, Copa del Rey 87, Supercopa 10, Europe 81, Spain 100.
Medals: 6 Spanish League, 3 Copa del Rey, 1 Champions Cup, 1 Cup-winners Cup, 1 European Supercup.
Spanish League record: 198-86 Athletico Bilbao, 169 games, 161 goals conceded; 1986-94 Barcelona, 302 games, 281 goals conceded; 1994 Valencia, 30 games, 36 goals conceded.



Rare sight . . . Hagi in full flight for Barcelona

High hopes . . . De La Pena who impressed in Qatar

No high fives for Barca

BARCELONA'S hopes of a fifth consecutive League title were as good as buried after a run of five games without a win - the worst spell of Cruyff's seven-year regime.

A 4-1 win over Valladolid put an end to that grim sequence, with Jordi Cruyff bagging his fourth and fifth goals of the season. On the eve of the game Cruyff senior had another dig at Hristo Stoichkov, who had declared his intention to stay at the club. Cruyff snapped: "He is free to stay but if he continues to play like this he won't get a game. If he wants a first-team place, he has to go back to performing as he did two seasons ago. This year he has done nothing."

Cruyff also expressed his disappointment with Gheorge Hagi, who has missed much of the season through injury. By that stage he had managed to play 13 full games - out of 30 - and had scored four goals.

Hagi isn't too happy himself after a catalogue of devastating muscular injuries which began with an injured right thigh in August. The latest entry is another tear to his hamstring.

Cruyff says his future at the club will have to be analysed very carefully. So too that of Espanyol's Jose Vera, with a judge conducting the analysis. Vera is charged with diverting £560,000 of the club's money into private accounts.

The lid popped off the scandal when a group of directors had a whip-round to pay for a dinner at a local restaurant and one of them alleged that Vera put the bill through the club accounts. An investigation revealed a string of other instances of questionable accounting.

Meantime, Real Madrid discovered that losing the club-versus-country battle over their discovery of the year, Raul, did not after all hinder their chances of winning the League.

The Spanish Federation had insisted on taking the exciting young Raul to the World Youth Championships final in Qatar but, with Ivan Zamorano rattling in the goals, their title bid barely faltered. Spain's scoring power in Qatar also served to show that Barcelona and Real Sociedad have unearthed some diamonds.

Ivan De La Pena, his dismissal for dissent in the opening match notwithstanding, produced enough creative skill and vision for Javier Clemente to exclaim: "If he isn't good enough for the First Division, I'm a Dutch uncle," which was presumably designed to make Johan Cruyff think twice about his current policy of keeping De La Pena in the Barcelona B team.

The other big discovery, Joseba Etxeberria, is a 17-year-old striker who is just starting to come into the reckoning for a first-team place at Real Sociedad.

The club/country dispute took on a new dimension when Oviedo's Serbian manager, Raddy Antic, refused to release two Croatian players for a game in Slovenia. Antic took Nikola Jerkan and Robert Prosinecki to La Coruna and the latter struck a late equaliser in a 2-2 draw.

The Croatian Federation had been intransigent with regard to the release of other players such as Boksic, Zvonimir Boban and Davor Suker and, at the time of writing, say they will lodge a complaint with FIFA. Should they do, Deportivo may be awarded a statutory 3-0 win, which would present them with an extra point in their challenge to Real Madrid.

● SPANISH LEAGUE officals have termed remarks by Atletico Madrid president Jesus Gil – aimed at black Colombian player Adolfo Valencia – "the most serious example of verbal violence in Spanish sports in recent years."

Gil lashed out at forward Valencia and Atletico's abysmal play after a draw against the League's bottom club, Logrones. Atletico are threatend with relegation to the Second Division and Gil blasted: "Nobody makes a fool of me – I'll cut that black guy's head off. Let him [Valencia] go back to Colombia and see if they really kill him," he added, seeming to allude to the murder last year in Colombia of World Cup player Andres Escobar following an unexpected loss to the US.

Colombia's ambassador to Spain, Maria Emma Mejia de Caballero, said the remarks were "inappropriate and xenophobic and generate violence."

Spain's secretary of state for sport, Rafael Cortes Elvira, said they were "facist statements" and suggested Gil should be sanctioned.

League officials said the matter would be reviewed by a disciplinary board and a fine and suspension seem likely.

gunpowder plo

He's the naughty boy with the golden touch, the holder of the worst disciplinary record in the Spanish League. Graham Turner profiles the explosive talent that is Juan Eduardo Esnaider

GOD Overdid the Gunpower. Of all the headlines about Juan Eduardo Esnaider, that's the one that's stuck in my mind.

Pedants would argue about gunpower being part of the human make-up, but the description seemed appropriate for a footballer long on explosive and short on blue touch-paper.

Real Zaragoza striker Esnaider has the worst disciplinary record in the Spanish League – which is saying something – and the Cup-winners Cup semi-final at Stamford Bridge illustrated his character.

He responded to an offside flag by booting the ball furiously into Kevin Hitchcock's net and, realising what he'd done, turned to the referee with his hands clasped together in front of his nose begging the official not to show him the yellow card which would have ruled him out of the Paris final. He produced indifferent form in a match where his priority was to control his temper.

"I am not a dirty player," he insists. "But I am a marked man. Referees are looking for me all the time. A few matches ago I was shown a yellow card for protesting and the Appeals Committee later wiped it off my record. I don't get cards for kicking people. I get them for rebelling against injustice."

A week after the expunged caution, he earned his third suspension of the League season by holding his head in his hands as a mark of disagreement with another decision. He has yet to accept that

otter

Spanish referees abhor the theatrical gestures designed to turn crowds against officials.

"I have tried to help him curb his reactions," says the Zaragoza boss Victor Fernandez. "But it's one thing talking quietly to a man in the dressing-room and another thing to control that man's reactions when his pulse-rate is around 200."

Esnaider's reputation was not helped by a six-month suspended sentence he was given for a bar-room punch-up while he was enjoying an evening off during last summer's pre-season training camp.

In the media, as at football grounds, Esnaider's disciplinary record takes the field before he does. Which is rough justice on a very talented footballer.

Psychiatrists might look into his background for clues about the gunpower plot. Despite a surname easily traceable to Schneider, there is nothing cool, blue-eyed or Prussian about the smouldering Latin-lover exterior. They might try to interpret his childhood love of *Tom & Jerry* cartoons or the dreams of being reincarnated as a panther. They certainly would latch on to his admission that being the sole boy with four older sisters sent him halfway down the road to becoming a spoilt brat who, in terms of household acumen, "might just manage to fry an egg" – and not on his head.

The family backdrop was set in the Argentinian resort of Mar de Plata where, apart from working as an engineer, his dad coached the infants team at a club called San Martin. Although schoolboy ambitions were directed towards a future at Racing, Ferro Carril Oeste jumped in and signed him as a 13-year-old. Esnaider was taller than most, stronger than most, more skilful than most, and scored more goals than most.

This was the player who caught Real Madrid's eye in January 1991, when he travelled to the South American Youth Championships as part of "Mostaza" Merlo's team and emerged as the top scorer and best player in the tournament.

Real were criticised for gambling £1million on an 18-year-old who had played only half a dozen First Division games. Offering him a five-year contract worth £4,000 a week was seen as further spoiling of a brat unlikely to be allowed to chew the cud with the sacred cows in the Real dressing-room. Especially as at Ferro he had been earning £25 a week and living in digs.

Within months he directed a blast of gunpowder at an opponent and the ref in the last minute of Argentina's 3-0 defeat by Portugal during the 1991 World Youth Championships in Lisbon. Two sendings-off during the qualifying tournament did not help, and the ensuing one-year ban put the brake on an international career which otherwise might have progressed naturally to an 'A' team place in the 1994 World Cup.

He was promptly consigned to Real's reserve side in the Second Division where, in 1991-92, he scored nine times in 26 appearances.

That was enough for Benito Floro to promote him to the first-team squad, where the critics were quick to paise a striker who, even if he did not quite come up to Carlos Griguol's description [he was Esnaider's coach at Ferro] of "half Maradona and half Kempes", controlled, dribbled and finished in flowing movements rarely combined with such physical stature.

But the signing of Ivan Zamorano proved to be such a barrier that his season was reduced to one start, one goal and nine appearances as sub.

Zaragoza saved his career. The club always have enjoyed a close relationship with Real – in the current side, Juanmi Solana, Aragon and Pardeza are all Madrid misfits who have settled at La Romareda – and Victor Fernandez requested Esnaider on loan.

He promptly contributed 10 yellow cards, one sending-off and 13 goals in 29 games to the 1993-94 season, which resulted in third place in the League and glory in the Spanish Cup. Zaragoza duly allowed Real to recoup their outlay and bought Esnaider outright.

In the meantime, his private life has been maturing fast and at 20 he already had two sons, Juan and Walter Ivan.

At 23, the footballer is ripening, too. But the explosive talent is still affected by an excess of gunpower.

'I'm not a dirty player. But I am a marked man. I don't get cards for kicking people. I get them for rebelling against injustice'

Final countdown . . . Esnaider celebrates one of the goals that put Zaragoza in the Cup-winners Cup Final

High flier. . . Esnaider evades the Feyenoord defence in the Cup-winners Cup quarter-final

Career saver . . . Victor Fernandez, Esnaider's boss at Zaragoza

PRO-FILE
JUAN EDUARDO ESNAIDER
REAL ZARAGOZA & ARGENTINA
Born: March 5, 1973, in Mar del Plata, Argentina.
Previous clubs: Ferro Carril Oeste, Real Madrid.
League debut: August 19, 1990 for Ferro v Velez Sarsfield.
HONOURS
Spanish Cup: 1994 (Real Zaragoza).

Freiburg's find

Nick Bidwell reports that Germany is just fine for Argentina's Cardoso

SC FREIBURG's Argentinian midfielder, Rodolfo Cardoso, must rank among the Bundesliga bargain buys of the decade.

Two years ago Freiburg paid a paltry £230,000 to lure him from a German Second Division club, FC Homburg. Today he's worth a fee of over £3million, and top European outfits such as Paris Saint Germain, Monaco, Werder Bremen and Kaiserslautern have reportedly added his name to their summer shopping list, even though Cardoso recently insisted he was staying put.

It's not surprising that Cardoso is such hot property. As well as being a wonderful midfield orchestrator blessed with excellent vision and typically flamboyant South American ball skills, he is an outstanding finisher.

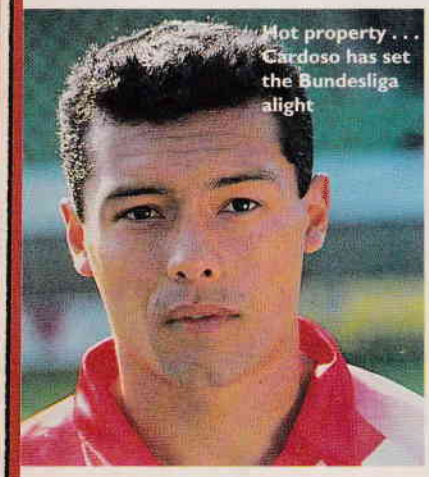
He has established himself as one of Germany's top scorers, and certainly no Bundesliga defender could possibly be unaware of his potency from set-pieces and his ability to steal into threatening positions.

Dynamic midfielders Jens Todt, Jorg Heinrich and Ralf Kohl have made sizeable contributions to Freiburg's surprise challenge for a UEFA Cup place next season, yet few would argue that the highest profile at the club belongs to Cardoso.

Helmut Schulte, the former Schalke 04 coach turned TV analyst, says: "When he is on song, the rest of the Freiburg side seem to move up a gear. I am astonished he has yet to play for Argentina.

"Technically, he is first-rate. In terms of skill, only Karlsruhe's Thomas Hassler can match him.

"I am not one of those critics who see Freiburg merely as a team of hard runners. But there is no doubt Cardoso gives them an extra dimension. He provides them with imagination and class.



Hot property . . . Cardoso has set the Bundesliga alight

"I give full credit to the coach, Volker Finke, and the Freiburg management for spotting Cardoso's potential. He scored only four times for FC Homburg in 1992-93, but the Freiburgers saw something they liked in him, and their judgement has proved spot on.

"Rodolfo has blossomed in the Bundesliga, and he can only improve."

Cardoso's achievements are all the more noteworthy considering that German football has not been noted for Argentinian imports.

Despite scintillating displays for his country at the 1974 World Cup finals, schemer Carlos Babington – dubbed 'El Inglese' because of his British ancestry – was a flop when he subsequently moved from Huracan of Buenos Aires to Second Division Wattenscheid.

Midfielders Jose Basualdo and Leo Rodriguez disappointed during spells in the 1990s with VfB Stuttgart and Borussia Dortmund respectively, and mercurial striker Sergio Zarate was offloaded last December, from Hamburg to Mexican club Necaxa, after failing to reproduce the fine scoring form he had shown the previous season with Nurnberg.

Cardoso says: "A South American needs luck to succeed in a tough European league like Germany's and I've definitely been fortunate. Shortly after agreeing to move from Estudiantes de la Plata to Homburg, I flew to Frankfurt and I remember wondering what I had let myself in for. I was so cold.

"But gradually I got used to the climate and even though Homburg were relegated in my first season and we would never make it back to the Bundesliga, I really enjoyed my three years at the club. There is little pressure at a small-town team like Homburg and, looking back, it was the perfect place for me to start my European career.

"My transfer to Freiburg could not have turned out better. Volker Finke believes in attacking football and he gives me lots of freedom to express myself and get forward at every opportunity.

"We are all surprised at how well we have done over the past few months. Last year we stayed up on goal difference, and back in August our aim was to pick up the 30 or so points we needed to avoid relegation.

"But in our second game of the season we managed to thrash Bayern Munich 5-1, and ever since then we have been playing with so much confidence."

Bayern battle . . . Rodolfo Cardoso takes on Munich's Marcel Witeczek

Austria

Coordes causes more problems

EVERYTHING points to a straight duel at the top between FK Austria and Salzburg.

Neutrals support Salzburg, for the Vienna team's controversial German manager, Egon Coordes, has again shocked the public with his severe disciplinary measures.

Not content with demoting youngsters Wagner and Zechner, who are part-timers doing their National Service, for alleged lack of effort in training, he reported both and recommended them for 'special duties' to the army authorities!

Despite his unorthodox methods, Coordes could count on the support of club president Gunther Hayn. But following his resignation, Coordes now finds himself in an isolated position. Only a title can save him from the sack.

FK Austria are facing a real challenge from Salzburg, unbeaten in the League since October, with goalkeeping hero Otto Konrad going 825 minutes before conceding a last-minute goal in a 1-1 draw against Sturm Graz.

Amazingly, not the expensive signings, but old boys such as Stadler and Lainer (both 34) and others around the 30 mark, are the stars.

The 3-0 triumph over FK Austria gave the Salzburgers a clear lead. Coordes did not have much to say, although he was forced to replace six injured regulars.

It was the first time in 20 years that a League match had been televised live and it attracted a viewing audience of over a million.

Coordes was again in the dock for taking off young Kunz after the two subs had been used, and the team finished the match with nine outfield players. "Kunz was not pulling his weight and we were better off without him," said Coordes.

ARTHUR ROTMIL

Germany

Injuries hit Euro progress

HAS German football become too physical? Experts seem to think so following the horrendous injury list which afflicted Bayern Munich and Borussia Dortmund.

Both of these, with Bayer Leverkusen, crashed out of the European competitions at the semi-finals stage and Bayern, deprived of Matthaus, Kahn, Papin and Kostadinov, and losing Helmer and Kuffour during the return leg against Ajax in Amsterdam, suffered a shattering 5-2 defeat.

They could yet miss out on European football next season, with dire financial consequences.

Borussia Dortmund, ravaged by injury (Chapuisat, Povlsen) and suspension (Moller, Riedle, Sammer), lost narrowly to Juventus, the UEFA Cup favourites, and Leverkusen fell to another Italian outfit, Parma.

Bayern already are preparing for next term, when new team manager Otto Rehhagel will have to reorganise the side, which has been strengthened by several new acquisitions.

The new midfield will feature Austrian international Andy Herzog, signed from Werder Bremen, Swiss World Cup star Ciriaco Sforza, from Kaiserslautern, and German international Thomas Strunz, returning to Munich after three years with Stuttgart. Bayern also have been making strenuous efforts to prise the national team's captain, Jurgen Klinsmann, from Tottenham and it looks as though England's Footballer of the Year will succumb to club president Franz Beckenbauer's advances. Borussia Dortmund, Werder Bremen, Barcelona, Internazionale and Milan are also said to be interested.

Klinsmann claims that he has clauses in his contract which would allow him to leave Spurs at the end of his first year but he will not decide until the end of the season. He admits that the importance of playing in European competition is paramount.

Bayern made themselves a laughing stock when, having beaten traditional rivals Eintracht 5-2 in Frankfurt, they were found to have fielded four amateurs when only three are allowed. Italian coach Giovanni Trapattoni, who does not speak German, did not read the rules.

The final of the DFB Cup will be staged in Berlin on 24 June, between the surprise team of the season, Borussia Monchengladbach, and promotion candidates VfL Wolfsburg.

The team from the home of the Volkswagen car works caused a sensation in the semi-final with their away victory over Koln.

Gladbach's greatest triumphs were in the 1970s, when they won five League titles in seven years. But their last domestic success dates back 18 years and it is 16 since their last triumph – winning the UEFA Cup.

Now their underrated Austrian manager, Bernd Krauss, has strengthened the defence and added bite to the attack, the most prolific in the League. Some experts are even tipping Gladbach for the double.

Of the other fancied teams, Dortmund undoubtedly sustained the biggest blow when top striker Chapuisat was put out of action for the rest of the season with a torn cruciate ligament.

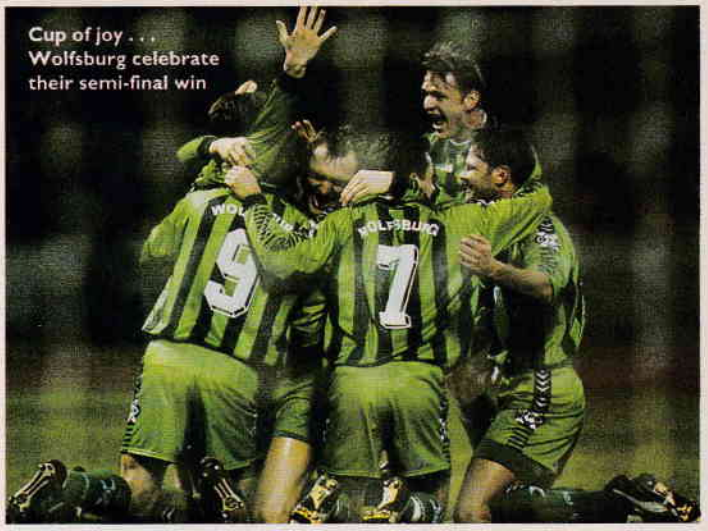
The club's lengthy involvement in the UEFA Cup also adversely affected their league form. They scored only six goals in seven Bundesliga games, which produced two wins and allowed Werder Bremen to close the gap.

The German tax authorities claim that Dortmund's Andy Moller is liable for tax on £2million, earned from various business enterprises, which he apparently did not declare to the authorities. Moller also has been charged by the DFB with unsportsmanlike conduct after admitting that he 'dived' to get a penalty in his team's 2-1 win against Karlsruhe.

A depression has been hanging over Bayer Leverkusen, whose players were accused of not trying in order to get team boss Dragoslav Stepanovic sacked.

He was replaced by the much-travelled Erich Ribbeck, but the demoralised team dropped back in the title race and may even miss out on a European place.

ARTHUR ROTMIL



Cup of joy . . . Wolfsburg celebrate their semi-final win

Held back . . . Dortmund's Chapuisat (left) is now injured

● VFB STUTTGART have parted company with coach Jurgen Rober and commercial manager Dieter Hoeness. The 1992 champions are currently in 11th place, after taking just one point from their last three games. Former coach Jurgen Sundermann has been called as acting coach until the end of the season.

Switzerland

Seasonal change for Swiss game

THE Swiss hierarchy, dissatisfied with the National League structure, are considering changing their domestic timetable.

That would mean fixtures running from spring to autumn, as is the case in Scandinavian countries and Russia, among others.

Unfavourable weather and poor pitches following the winter break in February have prompted the move, apparently supported by 14 out of 16 team managers. The plan would include as many games as possible in the warmer months and no summer break.

The idea is not new but so far it has not been accepted because of international commitments. All European competition finals, as well as the World Cup, are staged between May and July. This could upset the championship programme in Switzerland. Whether the new format would bring in more spectators is debatable.

The national team continued their fine run, though depleted by injuries, with a 2-2 draw in Hungary.

Although normally after a World Cup campaign the national squad is rebuilt, this time team manager Roy Hodgson continued with several players who helped to qualify for USA '94 and did well.

The enforced absence of some regulars meant that Hodgson was forced to experiment with some newcomers. The injuries to strikers Stephane Chapuisat and Adrian Knup allowed Nestor Subiat to stake a claim, and he scored both goals.

Subiat, of Grasshopper, was born in Argentina but grew up in Alsace and could become the first player since Claudio Sulser (1982) to be top league scorer and win the championship.

Swiss on a roll . . . Grasshopper's Nestor Subiat

France

Ups and downs of Marseille

THERE will always be a Marseille, somewhere or other. Even if, as seems probable for next season, it will again be in Division Two. And this, ironically, only because they have won promotion to Division One!

The disastrously indulgent regime of Bernard 'Teflon' Tapie left the club with debts of £40million, which meant it was a great relief when they were placed in receivership.

This enabled the debts to be frozen for the moment and for the money which came in to be used to pay the players, who, had they not been paid for a month and a day, would have been entitled to take free transfers.

It remains to be seen which of the stars will decide they don't want Second Division soccer at the end of the season. The alternative for Marseille is that, after failing to gain promotion, they are automatically doomed to the National Division One, a kind of Division III, but without the status even of its English equivalent.

Such draconian sanctions await any French club which goes bust. But the good news is that there has been a tremendous rallying round the club, not only by a highly sympathetic mayor and municipality, but also by any number of very rich potential sponsors.

By the time you read this, it may even be that Jean-Pierre Papin, of all past Marseille heroes, may have returned to the club. He's had enough of Bayern Munich and Germany, where his season has been blighted by injuries. "We'll get back to the top," he says. " With Marseille, I'll start scoring again."

One of the fine players Marseille picked up surprisingly cheaply, as they did with the Croatian Alen Boksic, is the Brazilian striker, Sonny Anderson, who arrived last season from Switzerland and moved on to Monaco, last summer, where the 24-year-old from Gatoiba has been scoring a hatful of goals. So many, indeed, and so convincingly, with head or foot, that it looks fairly certain he will move on to a bigger club when the current season ends.

It was, I suppose, almost inevitable that if things went wrong for Paris Saint Germain in the semi-finals of the Chmpions Cup against Milan, and that if George Weah, their star Liberian striker, didn't play well, then the heavens would fall. Since, as we all know, negotiations were well ahead for him to join none other than Milan at the end of the season.

Well, it duly happened. Weah had a very poor game at San Siro, where Paris SG were so easily beaten, and has been a target in consequence. Even his team-mate, French international Daniel Bravo, exclaimed: "It's too easy to doff your cap to a superior opponent. But if Milan won the way they did, it's because many of us didn't give our expected best on the field, George Weah among them." The implication was plain enough.

Weah has hit back. "I could very well ignore this, but the facts are so serious that silence on my part could be misinterpreted. I might have made it look as if my critics were right. I'm not a traitor. I've given everything for my team in my seasons in Paris. In the Champions Cup we were knocked out by a much stronger and more realistic team than ours. It would be utterly absurd now to put it all on me, when it was the team as a whole which didn't function in Paris and couldn't find the way to upset Milan at San Siro. In Milan, we didn't have the passes to play with in attack.

"That's how it went. I take some of the responsibility, certainly I don't deny it, but I've no intention of taking all the blame for our elimination."

Despite all the wrangling over whether Weah is qualified or not as a European, with French as well as Liberian nationality, we can I think take it as read that he will be on his way at the end of the season, as will the club's other star in attack, David Ginola.

Ginola, of course, was very keen to get to Italy last summer and very disappointed when it didn't happen. Now he has complained that he is forever taking the blame for when thins go wrong – for country rather than club, one must suppose, after recent events – and that he has, after all, Italian blood in his veins.

'Weah in prison, Weah sold to Milan', howled the placards put up by embittered Paris SG fans around Camp des Loges, the club's training pitch. But Weah won't have it. "If PSG became one of the great clubs of Europe and one of the best in the French championship," he said, "it's partly thanks to my personal achievements. The moment has come for me to look elsewhere, to new horizons."

But the PSG fans would reply that this moment had plainly arrived before those semi-final matches were played. "It's true," admits Weah, "that there is another year on my contract but I've no wish to stay. Capello wants me at Milan, I'm ready to perfect my game tactically and I know it would be an excellent piece of business for Paris SG. I am conditioning myself mentally to go and live in Lombardy next year. I'll have to adapt myself to a new style of life, a new style of play, but I am a chameleon." Not the word his former fans would use.

ANDRE DUCLOS

Parisian walk-away . . . Weah is set to join Milan

● PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN gained some consolation for the disappointment of their Champions Cup semi-final exit when they beat outsiders Bastia in a controversial League Cup Final. The 2-0 win earned the French champions a place in next season's UEFA Cup. Headers from Alain Roche, and Brazilian Rai gave PSG victory, although things could have been very different. A goal by Bastia's Drobjnak was ruled offside just before half-time, although television replays showed the Montenegrin was clearly onside.

That Riviera touch . . . Sonny Ahderson has been in fine form for Monaco this season

Belgium

Reprieve for Van Himst

FOR once Paul Van Himst seems to have got it right. The beleaguered Belgian manager, whose job was on the line, appears to have come up trumps with his selection for the national team of Gunther Schepens.

The 22-year-old midfielder is not a prolific scorer with his club, Standard Liege, but for his country his marksmanship is unerring. Schepens, called into the squad for the first time but not used in Seville for the European Championship qualifier against Spain – where Marc Degryse hit Belgium's shock equaliser in a 1-1 draw – celebrated his debut three weeks later by scoring the only goal in the friendly against the United States.

He followed that by completing Belgium's 2-0 Euro qualifier Group Two win over Cyprus with the second goal, Karagiannis – of Cypriot descent – having opened the scoring in the 20th minute.

While Belgium's prospects improve ever so slightly, so do those of one of their most favourite sons, Jan Ceulemans. A tall, rather ungainly forward, who made 96 appearances for his country between 1977 and 1991, Ceulemans is now quietly excelling as a coach, testimony being the rapid strides made by Aalst, from the little town, 25 kilometres from the capital.

In his first season, Aalst were promoted to the First Division. They are prospering to the extent that Club Brugge, the club where Ceulemans spent 10 seasons as a player, may be regretting their decision not to reward him with a job on the coaching staff instead of in public relations. When he walked out, Aalst were quick to offer Ceulemans what he wanted and have been delighted with the choice.

Aalst are just too far behind the leaders, Anderlecht, to make a realistic challenge but there will be plenty of comfort for Ceulemans should Aalst find themselves participating in the Cup Final on May 28. . . at the expense of Club Brugge, their semi-final opponents.

Both Ceulemans and Aalst have resigned themselves, however, to the fact that they soon will be without Gilles De Bild, last season's Golden Boot winner and this season's top scorer in the Belgian First Division.

He seems destined to move on, whether it is to nearby Anderlecht, Atletico Madrid or to Italy in the summer.

NICHOLAS HARLING

Republic of Ireland

Dundalk snatch title

DUNDALK are the surprise winners of the FAI National League Premier Division title. The team the media ignored snatched the championship on the last day of the season by beating Galway United 2-0.

Going into the last series of games, Derry City were a point ahead of both Shelbourne and Dundalk, who had come with a late run. Derry needed to beat third-from-bottom Athlone Town and the title was theirs, but Athlone held out for a draw.

That would have left the way open for Shelbourne if they could beat St Patrick's Athletic at Tolka Park. But there were no favours in this Dublin derby and in the end Shels were lucky to escape defeat. So the championship went to Dundalk, the only team in the top three who won on the day.

Tom McNulty, who had scored the goal that won Dundalk their last title in 1991, got the vital goal against Galway. In Athlone, Stuart Gauld, who had converted 37 out of 38 penalties since arriving in Derry 10 years ago, had his kick saved by Shane Curran.

Dundalk manager Dermot Kealy, who works in Dublin as a teacher, certainly taught everybody a lesson that you can win the title without any big stars.

Kealy, who won the title as a player with both Dundalk and Shamrock Rovers and led Rovers to the League-and-Cup double, did not have any money to spend during the season, in which the club almost went bankrupt. But his knowledge of the local scene shone through with some astute buys.

Shelbourne and Derry, who will contest the FAI Cup Final, are guaranteed European football next season. The Intertoto Cup spot goes to Bohemians.

This has been a great season for University College Dublin, who are celebrating their centenary this year. The Belfield students won the First Division Shield, the Leinster Senior Cup and the First Division League title.

Shelbourne and Bohemians, two of the League's oldest clubs, now field women's teams. One of Shels' first signings is Corinne Issertes-Puech, a French girl who has been with Dublin clubs for the past five years.

SEAN CREEDON

Portugal

Vintage Porto

FC PORTO look set to confirm themselves as champions. After all, they are confirming every week the superiority of their football.

At the time of writing they had a comfortable five-point lead over Sporting Lisbon, with Benfica third, 11 points behind the leaders. So Bobby Robson, having twice won the Dutch League with PSV, may yet add another title to his CV.

People suggest that Porto may have to take responsibility for some recent crowd trouble, though. Mr Pinto da Costa, the club's chairman, insisted that his club had done what was needed – winning 1-0 – on the field and that the incidents which took place on the terraces had possibly been orchestrated by provocateurs from Lisbon.

He then took the whole matter into the political arena and this is what is concerning football people – club directors are using their clubs for political propaganda. This is about as acceptable as the idea of building a church at the Stadium of Light, as advocated by the wife of Benfica's chairman, Mr Damasio. Portuguese clubs do not belong to companies, families or shareholders as they do in England. They belong to their fee-paying people, the fans or 'socios'. But the football modernisers want to alter the balance of power.

It is all part of a Government move to bring clubs into the limited company industrial framework which has been achieved in Italy and to a lesser extent in Spain.

The Government see clubs as having played fast and loose with social security and taxes and they want a more structured system.

But the people who made – and still make – football clubs what they are won't be keen to surrender what amounts to part of their very soul.

The modernisers have tried another method, suggesting that private associations be formed outside the clubs and that the founders of these associations would offer the clubs a percentage of the corresponding shares, in return for them being given the running of their football, basketball or athletics departments.

We have always said that sport and football in particular do not combine well with business. Others, of course, have different views. But business practices and corporate mentalities have already ruined many clubs. They are out, we are sure, to ruin many more.

ALBERTO DA SILVA

Holland

Ajax give Uli a lesson

THERE are bad losers in every sport. But it seems incredible what just one person was saying after Ajax had knocked Bayern Munich out of the Champions Cup in great style.

The European press – yes, including the Germans – were full of praise for Ajax's talent and style.

Then Uli Hoeness, the Bayern manager, came out with these ridiculous comments: "I didn't rate Ajax at all. Had Bayern been able to field our best team we would have won in Amsterdam. Certainly Ajax have no chance against Milan. Their defence is terribly weak."

Yes, so weak that they managed to beat Bayern 5-2 – and the second Bayern goal was a penalty!

Most of the brilliant Ajax youngsters have no idea when the club last appeared in a Champions Cup final. In 1973 in Belgrade, when a header by Johnny Rep beat Juventus 1-0, some were not born and others were having regular nappy changes.

Strangely enough Ajax beat Bayern by the same 5-2 scoreline in that year's quarter-final.

Look at the names in that 1973 final and the modern youngsters know they have a long way to go. Stuy; Suurbier, Krol, Neeskens, Hulshoff, Blankenburg, Rep, Haan, Cruyff, Gerrie Muhren, Keizer.

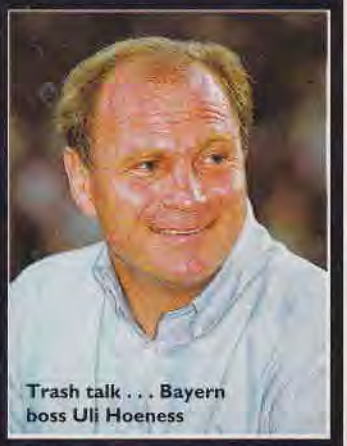
What a team! But within a few years people in the game will be talking about the current crop of talent in a similar manner.

John De Wolf, snapped up by Wolves from Feyenoord, is a very good defender, but there are not many like him in Dutch football. Basically the emphasis here is on attack, with the midfielders doing most of the defensive work.

There is a shortage of good full-backs. One of the reasons put forward is that all fathers want their sons to grow into another Marco Van Basten.

But attack is the best form of defence. Nobody would be happy if the Dutch switched to the old Italian style.

Apart from FC Twente, still surprising many people with their run of success, another team have been causing surprises, and have been from the start of the season. They are Roda JC Kerkrade, who have not been shopping around to buy success, but have worked on the players they already had.



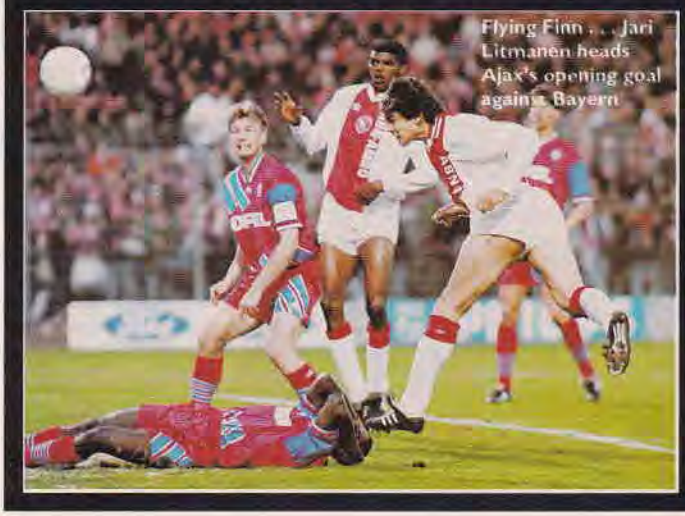
Trash talk . . . Bayern boss Uli Hoeness

One of the main reasons for this success is Huub Stevens, the manager, who not surprisingly has signed a new two-year contract.

Stevens had done his homework before joining Roda in 1993. As a player he spent some time with PSV, and when he switched to coaching he became the man in charge of the development of PSV youngsters.

He is only 41, so it is fair to suggest that we shall be hearing a lot more about him.

ERIC NICHOLLS



Flying Finn . . . Jari Litmanen heads Ajax's opening goal against Bayern

Denmark

All to play for

THE DANISH Superliga season is developing into one of the most incredible in football history.

An astounding claim? Maybe. But the fact is that with just nine games left to play, every single side has a chance of winning the title.

Top club Aab Aalborg and bottom-club AGF Aarhus are separated by only four points.

And with no clubs to be relegated because of league re-structuring, it means there should be no fear factor to spoil the title run-in.

The 'concertina' league is certainly proving a huge hit with Danish soccer fans, as an amazing 35,000 saw the 19th round of matches.

The standard of soccer has become less technical, with more emphasis on the hard-running game played in England and Sweden. But that hasn't seemed to bother the crowds.

Brondby missed the chance to go back on top of the pile when they lost 3-2 at home to local rivals FC Copenhagen, in front of a 16,800 sell-out crowd. Thousands were locked outside – a virtually unknown phenomena in the domestic Danish game.

Brondby have had just three draws and two defeats from the five games since the winter break, and yet remain in second place on 17 points.

Aab have clung precariously to the number one position thanks to the exploits of top scorer Erik Bo Andersen who went on as a sub ion Denmark's match against Macedonia, with boss Richard Moller Nlelsen saying: "All I can do is pick the player in form who is scoring goals."

Another shock call-up was Ipswich midfielder Claus Thomsen, who is a transfer target for rival English club Queens Park Rangers. He played the whole match.

After a disappointing 1-1 draw in Cyprus the Danes beat Macedonia 1-0 at home to keep a realistic chance of defending their European Championship crown in England in the summer of 1996.

Moller Nielsen's clear-out included the exclusion of goalscoring hero from the 1992 final, Arsenal's John Jensen.

He wants to stay in English football, but has yet to be offered a new contract by the Gunners.

JIM HOLDEN

National call-up . . . Claus Thomsen of Ipswich Town

Sweden

The power of one

IFK GOTHENBURG are clear favourites to clinch their fifth Swedish League Championship under coach Roger Gustafsson.

Many Swedish experts believe that even IFK's reserves would be good enough to finish among the top five in the League. In their starting 11 only the evergreen goalkeeper Tomas Ravelli can be sure of his place.

Behind IFK it could be a real dog-fight involving Malmo, Orebro, Helsingborg and the season's dark-horses, Hammarby.

Helsingborg, under coach Reine Almquist, count on the defensive experience of Roland Nilsson, while midfielders Christer Fursth and Magnus Powell are two useful signings, from Orebro, as is big striker Peter Hillgren, from Malmo. However, they will miss the goals of the Nigerian striker Mike Obiku, who played for them last season on loan from Feyenoord.

Will it, at last, be a successful year for Hammarby, the darlings of the Stockholm fans?

Hammarby have an image of playing carefree football. They have strengthened their back four with the former international Jean-Paul Vonderburg, from Japan's Hiroshima Sanfrecce, while up-front a lot is expected from Kim Bergstrand (ex-AIK Stockholm) and Hans Eskilsson.

● **SWEDEN's international stopper Jan Eriksson looks to be winning his battle against a persistent thigh injury that has kept him out for over a year.**

The injury not only cost Eriksson his place in last year's World Cup finals but also a lucrative move from his German club Kaiserslautern to Japan.

Now Eriksson is playing on loan for AIK Stockholm, the club he left in 1991 for IFK Norrkoping. At that time he was seen as a traitor by some of the AIK fans, but seems to be back in favour again.

Eriksson, 27, emerged as a star during the 1992 European Championship finals with brilliant headed goals against France and England. His recovery is good news for the national coach Tommy Svensson, because Sweden have looked vulnerable at the back lately.

Eriksson is now unlikely to move to Germany, a which may rekindle the interest shown in him by several English clubs.

PENTTI HIETANEN

Finland

TPV wait for Dionisio

CHAMPIONS TPV Tampere have been waiting in vain for the return of their Brazilian striker Dionisio, last season's top scorer in Finland.

Dionisio has a year of his contract in Finland to run, but has been reluctant to return. He has spent the winter in his homeland with Bangu and at one stage was rumoured to be moving to play in South Korea.

TPV are watching closely the situation of British striker Stewart Beards, whose move from TPS Turku to Sweden's Lulea seems to have fallen through.

● **HJK's coach, Bo Johansson, surprised many by including in his first-team English left-back Kim Wasser, who is already 37. Wasser has lived in Finland for 10 years, playing for minor clubs in the Helsinki area.**

Meanwhile, HJK refused to loan international goalkeeper Antti Niemi to Birmingham City for the remainder of the English season.

PENTTI HIETANEN

Norway

Chaos as Brann crash

THE football public in Bergen witnessed drama unfold as Brann again seemed to press the self-destruction button just before the season began.

After a training camp in Cyprus, a revolt within the squad burst out in the national press. A group of players started a rebellion directed against coach Hallvar Thoresen, and the board simply had to clamp down.

Their solution was to support the coach fully and punish the protesting players.

After lengthy inquiries, four were given separate punishments according to the seriousness of their 'crimes'.

The most severe was levied on Trond Egil Soltvedt, last season's leading scorer, the most popular player with the fans.

His crime was unwillingness to obey Thoresen's instructions in training, and "acting negatively". His punishment? The sack. And after speculation about his future, Rosenborg stepped in and signed him.

The good news was that defender Tore Pedersen was back from Japan and had decided to sign for Brann.

Even so, the team crashed 6-0 on their home ground against Molde, with the crowd demanding the dismissal of Thoresen and the board.

Demonstrations after the match made clear that the sacking of their hero Soltvedt was not forgotten.

Soltvedt settled down well with Rosenborg, forced himself into the starting line-up for the first League match against Kongsvinger, and in front of a 10,000 home crowd he helped his new team to a 6-0 victory!

After an unsuccessful winter in Dutch football with Utrecht, Erik Mykland is back with Start and showed superb form in the opening match.

Having been dropped by national manager Egil Olsen for the European qualifier against Luxembourg a couple of days earlier, Mykland was eager to prove that he should have been selected. Club-mate Pal Lydersen also had a point to prove to Olsen.

SIGURD ODEGAARD

Israel

Harazi sorely missed

THE game was in Zarbrze, not far from the site of the Auschwitz death camp, on the eve of Holocaust Remembrance Day. "This is our chance to hold our heads high in the world," said coach Shlomo Scharf.

He also said it was the team's best opportunity of gaining the vital European Championship away win they needed, but it was not to be.

Despite an excellent performance, Israel lost by the odd goal in seven and were left to rue the absence of Ronnen Harazi, who had a stomach injury. He had scored four goals in five games for his country, including two in the defeat of the Poles in Tel Aviv last September.

With only five rounds left in the League, Maccabi Tel Aviv opened up a four-point lead. Their main rivals, current champions Maccabi Haifa, failed to keep up the chase, losing 1-0 at Hapoel Tel Aviv, while Maccabi Tel Aviv beat Hapoel Haifa 2-1 away.

At the bottom, Maccabi Netanya, a club of distinction in past years, sank deep into trouble.

Financial problems have hampered Netanya all season and the musical chairs game played by the board – a third coach, Shmuel Pearlman, was appointed after Viko Hadad had been fired and Oded Machness resigned – failed to improve the club's fortunes.

Rocket from Ronnie . . . Rosenthal scores against Poland

Netanya, however, managed to reach the State Cup semi-finals, where they will play Hapoel Haifa, making up for a lacklustre League season with an impressive run.

The second semi-final pairs Maccabi Haifa and Betar Jerusalem, in a match many people had hoped would be the final.

ORI LEWIS

Turkey

Death mars Swiss win

A WOMAN was killed and at least 13 injured during celebrations after Turkey's memorable 2-1 victory over Switzerland in a European Chamionship qualifier.

In celebrations that lasted until dawn, fans waved flags and banners, chanted slogans and fired guns in the air from speeding cars and trucks. A stray bullet hit and mortally wounded a woman watching the crowds from a fifth floor apartment in Instanbul.

The death was just the latest football-related death in Turkey in recent weeks.

During celebrations after the Turkish Cup Final, which Trabzonspor won for the fifth time after beating Galatasaray 4-2 on aggregate, a Trabzonspor supporter was shot dead. Again it was a stray bullet from celebrating fans that caused the death.

A few weeks earlier, a teenage Fenerbahce fan had been beaten to death by a gang of schoolboys, alleged to be Galatasaray supporters, after Fenerbahce had beeaten Galatasaray 3-0 in the League. When police caught them, they said that they did not mean to kill him, and that they were annoyed with him because he was making fun of Galatasaray.

The 30th week of the Turkish League produced no surprises as all four traditional front-runners won.

Leaders Besiktas, under German manager Christoph Daum, could not impress at home when they defeated Black Sea team Samsunspor 1-0. They bagged the valuable points courtesy of a third-minute own goal from defender Favzi. With this win they have extended their lead at the top of the table to five points with just four matches to play.

Besiktas have won all their last four games. Among them was one striking result, the 8-2 demolition of Altay in Izmir. Then, after they beat Antalya 2-1 at home, they won 2-1 away to Kayseri. Their top scorer is Ertugrul, with 21 goals so far.

Second-placed Trabzonspor easily defeated relegation-threatened Zeyinburnu 3-0 at home, with goals by Orhan (2) and Shota. They have now won their last four games, by defeating Kocaeli 4-0, Vanspor 2-0, and crushing Adana Demirspor 7-0.

Having won the Turkish Cup, Trabzonspor are guaranteed a place in the Cup-winners Cup next season. Senol Gunes, the coach of Trabzonspor, said: "We are going to make some more surprises in Europe like last season. But we also have mathematical chances to win the title as well. We have to win all our remaining League games and hope that Besiktas lose."

Swiss rolled over . . . Korkmaz tangles with Switzerland's Ohrel

Defending champions Galatasaray put a smile back on the faces of their disillusioned fans with a 2-1 victory over Vanspor. After they lost 2-1 at home to Ankaragucu, they drew 0-0 away to Denizlispor and then beat Kocaelispor 4-2 at home, to leave themselves 10 points adrift of Besiktas.

With the victory over Vanspor, Gala seem likely to qualify for the UEFA Cup next season.

Fenerbahce – also stuck in a mysterious slump this season – won in style, routing relegation-bound Antalyaspor 3-0 at home. In their last four games Fenerbahce have lost two and won two. Top scorer in the League is Aykut, of Fenerbahce, with 24 goals.

Fenerbahce have signed Gaziantepspor's Bosnian striker Bolic, who has scored 23 goals so far. He cost £1.3million and the club are also after Rangers central defender Basile Boli.

Galatasaray are currently being managed by a caretaker coach but are in search of a well-known manager. They are interested in Bayern Munich's Italian coach Trapattoni, but will settle for Karlsruhe's Schaffer if he turns them down.

Besiktas have renewed their contract with Daum, who will receive two million DeutschMarks a year. Besiktas are also after Sweden striker Kennet Andersson, who plays in France with Caen. Howard Kendall, recently sacked by Notts County, has also been mentioned.

HASAN CEMALI

Albania

ALBANIA recorded their first victory for almost three years by beating Moldova 3-0 in a European Championship qualifier in Tirana.

Two goals by Sokol Kushta, giving him a record eight for his country, and one by Salvator Kacaj gave the Albanians their first win since June 1992, when they defeated Lithuania 1-0 in a World Cup qualifying match.

Victory failed to lift Albania from the bottom of the group standings but could encourage more foreign-based players to heed the call to play for the national side.

Team manager Neptun Bajko again had to delay naming his line-up to the last minute while he waited to see who turned up.

In the championship, FK Tirana stretched their lead to 10 points with 39 after 25 matches. Albpetrol had 29 and Partizani and Shkumbini 28.

Arben Shuhu of Shqiponja scored three goals in the 4-1 win over Iliria and is the top scorer with 17. Indrid Fortuzi of FK Tirana is second on 14.

GEZIM NUSHI

Greece

PANATHINAIKOS celebrated early this season, winning the League crown with a record-breaking performance, six matches before the end, and completing the double by beating AEK Athens 1-0 in a Cup Final marred by violence on and off the pitch.

Panathinaikos won the title for the 17th time, losing only once in 28 matches so far and gathering 73 points. Olympiakos, second, are 19 points behind!

Two Polish stars played a big part. Krysztof Warzycha leads the League scorers with 25 goals, and keeper Jozef Wandzik has been outstanding, with a dozen clean sheets.

As for the Cup, Panathinaikos won for the 15th time, the third in a row, with Warzycha's penalty in extra time.

But fans clashed at half-time and at the end angry AEK fans broke seats in the Olympic Stadium and set many ablaze. Referee Filippos Bakas had his shirt torn by irate AEK players protesting at the penalty.

More than half of the gate receipts will have to be used to repair damage caused to the best stadium in the country. About 12,000 seats must be replaced.

LOU ECONOMOPOULOS

Malta

HIBERNIANS moved nearer to their second consecutive title after beating Valletta 2-1 in yet another decisive encounter.

With only two games to play, Brian Talbot's team have a one-point lead over Sliema Wanderers, and their last match is against St George's, who had lost 15 of their 16 fixtures at the time of writing.

Gigantic defender Lawrence Attard, recently picked for the national squad, has been playing an instrumental role in Talbot's plans, and scored three times in the last two games, from set-pieces.

A boring goalless draw between Hamrun and Floriana meant that both join Valletta out of the title reckoning.

DOMENICO AQUILINA

Macedonia

The enemy within

TWO NAMES frequently mentioned in Macedonia these days are those of Ljubisav Ivanov and Sasa Ciric.

Ivanov, nicknamed Zinga, is owner and president of Sileks Kratovo FC as well as head of the national FA. Vardar Skopje supporters and officials rate him their 'enemy No. 1', citing his autocratic manner and alleged hostility towards Vardar.

Ivanov's recent purchase of the best premises within Skopje Council Stadium, where Vardar have played their home games since 1945, has further angered Vardar fans.

Just for a bit of added spice, the two sides meet in the Cup Final and Vardar – 14 points clear in the League – could have the last laugh by claiming the double.

Sasa Ciric, the 27-year-old Vardar centre-forward, could sign for Brazilian club Piracicaba of Sao Paulo. They have expressed an interest in Ciric, who spent a five-day trial there.

The national team, meanwhile, lost 1-0 in Denmark, which leaves them with five points from as many games and a lot to do in their remaining five European Championship qualifiers.

MIROLJUB STOJKOVIC

Yugoslavia

Star shining bright

EUROPE, here we come . . . that is the song of the moment as far as Red Star's supporters are concerned.

UEFA has cleared for entry for two Yugoslav teams in next season's Intertoto Cup, and Red Star, the favourites to win the Yugoslav championship, look set for a return to European compeition

The former Champions Cup-holders are well on top in Division A and the 'double' remains a distinct possibility as they face a National Cup Final against a Division B team, Obilic.

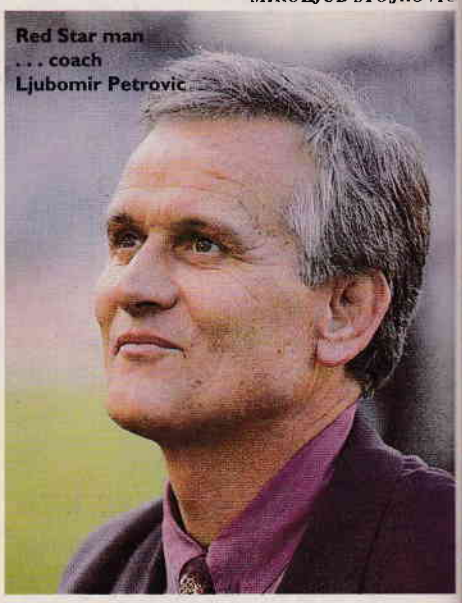
The championship would be Red Star's 20th but the first since 1991, when the civil war erupted and a new competition was designated.

On their day, Red Star are easily the most accomplished team in the division. An average age of 23 years and three months indicates that, apart from goalkeeper Milojevic, then a reserve, no player from the current squad took part in the memorable Champions Cup and World Club Cup triumphs four years ago.

Head coach Ljubomir Petrovic, who rejoined Red Star after brief spells in Spain with Espanyol and in Greece with Olympiakos, and his assistant, Zoran Antonijevic, have seen their single-minded approach rewarded this season.

Partizan Belgrade – with the added incentive of defending the title and rising to overhaul their neighbours – and Vojvodina Novi Sad, suffered from unexpected bad spells in mid-season but both should be strong enough to qualify for the UEFA Cup.

MIROLJUB STOJKOVIC



Red Star man . . . coach Ljubomir Petrovic

Russia

No place for foreign stars

NATIONAL coach Oleg Romantsev dropped all his foreign-based players for the European Championship group eight qualifier in Moscow against the amateurs of the Faroe Islands.

Russia's top domestic players are often shut out of the national side by overseas stars such as Manchester United winger Andrei Kanchelskis and midfielders Igor Dobrovolski of Atletico Madrid and Igor Kolyvanov of Foggia.

However, Romantsev, who does not always enjoy the best of relations with the European clubs where many of his best performers appear, knows many of those first-choice players will be locked in crucial championship and relegation battles.

He is therefore likely to use the Moscow game as a chance to look more closely at some of his more promising, but often overlooked home-based players.

Three-times Russian champions Spartak Moscow, who Romantsev also coaches, provide no less than 10 of the national squad members, including in-form striker Muksim Mukhamadiyev.

● The squad named by Romantsev was as follows: Goalkeepers – Ruslan Nigmatullin, Zaur Khapov. Defenders – Ramiz Mamedov, Andrei Afanasyev, Dmitry Khlestov, Yuri Nikiforov, Yuri Kovtun. Midfielders – Yuri Onopko, Andrei Pyatnitsky, Omari Tetradze, Yevgeny Bushmanov, Vyacheslav Radimov. Strikers – Nikolai Pisarey, Andrei Kechinov, Muksim Mukhamadiyev, Igor Lebed, Dmitry Cheryshev.

JONATHAN SHALLARD

Romania

Lacatus still lively

TWO GOALS in two games gave leaders Steaua four points. A narrow home win over immediate challengers 'U' Craiova followed a 1-1 draw in Brasov to put the former European champions eight points ahead of the provincial student team.

Dinamo missed the chance of overtaking 'U' by going down 2-0 to Baia Mare, the penultimate club, after taking the points in a convincing win against mid-table Arges Pitesti in Bucharest.

Steaua's vital goal against Craoiva was scored by the veteran Marius Lacatus, whose form will not have gone unnoticed by national team manager Anghel Iordanescu.

FC National's leading scorer Duna, on 15, may be another candidate for a place in the Romanian squad for the remaining European Championship qualifying matches.

Romania are still the favourites in Group One despite the narrowness of their wins and relatively poor scoring record. Nevertheless it is better than that of the ailing French, who have to go to Bucharest in mid-October. Hagi & Co remain confident.

A lengthy championship programme going on past the home game with Israel on June 7 will leave little respite, with clubs almost certain to take up any Intertoto Cup chance of European qualification.

In the two sections of Division Two, Bacia Unirea and 'Poli' Timisoara lead, the latter by 10 points, the former on goal average. Mid-June will bring a decision on who goes up – and if Steaua take the First Division title again.

BOB VAUGHAN

Still going strong . . . Steaua vetaran Marius Lacatus

Czech Republic

A Drastik decision

THE chase is on! Following the 'Big "S" Derby' in Vrsovice, Slavia's lead at the top has been cut to two points by eternal rivals Sparta.

The return duel was decided in the last moment by Nedved's goal, so Sparta took maximum points to bring their record to 43 from 21 games.

The Slavia players who trooped disconsolately to the dressing rooms at Dr Vacka Stadium included former QPR and Sparta goalkeeper Jan Stejskal, anxious to win a trophy with his new club.

The match had taken a twist or two earlier when referee Maurer was injured early on and had to be replaced by linesman Drastik. After a quarter of an hour's interruption the game continued, and after 68 minutes of playing time Mr Drastik sent off Slavia stopper Suchoparek.

This gave Sparta the initiative and eventually an error by Slovak defender Kristofik allowed Nedved to win the game for the visitors.

Compared with the great days of Prague derbies, 13,456 was not a big crowd, but perhaps interest will grow again when the Dr Vacka is finally rebuilt and if such drama continues to be offered.

Meanwhile autumn leaders Viktoria lost again, this time to village team Drnovice. Only 3,540 turned up.

Generally it was a bad day for Prague clubs as Bohemians also lost, Plzen climbing from the relegation fringes to 10th with a 4-0 win.

In Division Two, Uherske Hradiste go from strength to strength and are now certain to be promoted. LRK Brno, Opava and Usti are level on points in joint second place.

The leaders attracted a remarkable 8,000 spectators to their match with mid-table Uhersky Brod and notched their 60th point and 62nd goal of the season. With over 17,000 at First Division Brno the same weekend, these are boom times in Moravian football.

BOB VAUGHAN

Keeping the faith . . . Slavia's new man Jan Stejskal

Poland

One defeat and coach is out

WIDZEW LODZ coach Wladyslaw Stachurski was sacked when his team lost 1-0 away to Pogon – after going 18 matches unbeaten.

Chairman Andrzej Pawalec said: "We have dropped five points in our last eight games, and that is too much if we are to win the championship."

Widzew were then second, three points behind defending champions Legia Warsaw.

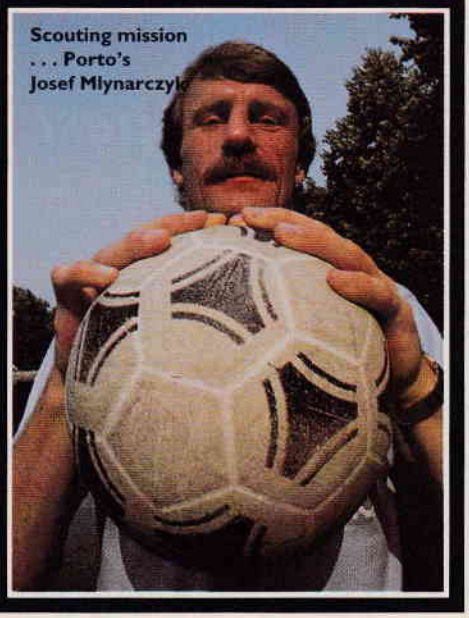
Porto manager Bobby Robson and his Polish assistant, Jozef Mlynarczyk, had watched an earlier Widzew game, when they beat LKS Lodz, Grzgorz Mielcarski, who scored the only goal and was the best player on the field, was the obvious attraction.

Zaglebie Lubin, winning seven games out of eight, are making a challenge for a place in next season's UEFA Cup. In contrast, Olimpia Poznan lost seven and are in danger of relegation.

Miroslaw Jablonski quit as Polonia Warsaw coach after one week, having been assaulted by a spectator who was upset when the club lost their last chance of promotion from the Second Division.

The 4-3 win over Israel reinforced hopes of qualification for the European Championship, but posed questions about the quality of the defence.

DARIUSZ KUROWSKI



Scouting mission . . . Porto's Josef Mlynarczyk

Armenia

SHIRAK GYUMRI have set a record for Armenian soccer by going through 46 League games unbeaten, passing the previous best set by Ararat Yerevan.

Ararat were the last team to beat Shirak in both the league – on August 12, 1993 – and the Cup, when they won last season's final.

Shirak began the new season with three successive victories, 6-1 against Zangezouz, 4-0 over Homenmen and 1-0 against Cement, to lead the table.

Banants, Cup-winners in 1992, have changed their name to Kotaik 2, and are now sponsored by FC Kotaik-Abovian.

GAGIK YEGIAZARIAN

Croatia

RUMOURS of match-fixing in Croatia were reinforced when a coach, Stanko Poklepovic, made allegations against clubs.

Poklepovic was sacked recently by FC Istra, and said: "I asked for radical changes in the team, but the officials changed me instead." He then alleged that promotion places might be decided by having certain results arranged to suit certain clubs, and said the public should be made aware of what was going on.

FC Croatia, leading the title race by three points from Osijek and six from Hadjduk Split, have been banned from UEFA competitions for a year following hooligan behaviour by fans at a match in Auxerre.

A League-and-Cup double is on for FC Croatia, who meet Osijek in one Cup semi-final. Hajduk Split face Varteks Varazdin in the other.

Federation officials have discovered microphones in a hotel used by the national team. They are thought to have been left over from a previous administration.

An Osifek player, 26-year-old Dragan Vukoja, is unlikely to play again. He had to have his spleen removed after colliding with an opponent during a match.

FC Zagreb have signed Joseph Odegambi, who is said to have played 37 times for Nigeria.

ZDRAVKO REIC

Latvia

DEFENDING champions Skonto Riga went straight to the top when the new Latvian season began, winning their first three games and scoring nine goals, without conceding any.

Newcomer Vladen Baushev, signed from Smena-Saturn of St Petersburg, began well, with three goals in his first three appearances.

One of the promoted clubs, Starts Brotseni, won two of their three matches, but another, Kvadrats Riga, lost all theirs without managing a single goal.

The national team lost to Northern Ireland in a European Championship qualifier, Dowie scoring the only goal from a penalty. This was their third successive home defeat – before a crowd of only 1,560.

VALERY KARPOUSHKIN

Bulgaria

Look it's Lok

WHILE main rivals Germany were receiving Wales in Dusseldorf, the Bulgarians were tackling a tricky tie in Chisnau with one eye on events at the Rheinstadion.

Sofia's Vasily Levski Stadium stages the big match on June 7, with both countries almost certain to go forward to the European Championship finals, but Bulgaria and Germany could still theoretically be caught by Moldova or Georgia. Dimitar Penev's team play three of their last four matches away.

In the League, a surprise defeat cost the champions the leadership. Away to Lokomotiv Gorna Oriahovitsa, Levski stumbled and fell by the only goal, having seen off CSKA in Sofia the previous week. At the same time challengers Lok Sofia comfortably defeated Spartak Plovdiv to lead by a point.

Until now Levski's troubles have been off the field, but perhaps the disruption in the board and the threat of a different management are beginning to take their toll.

Losing at the penultimate club looks ominous but the club should manage somehow to be in the UEFA Cup next season.

Demands of the national team may affect Levski but their players are not quite under the same scrutiny as Stoichkov, whose future or possible lack of it at Barcelona continues to fascinate.

BOB VAUGHAN

Old rivals . . . Lechkov's winning header at USA '94

Hungary

Swedes humbled in Budapest

THE fortunes of Hungarian football took an unexpected turn for the better followiung the national side's 1-0 win over Sweden in the Euopean Championship qualifiers.

Halmai's second-minute goal was enough to send the World Cup semi-finalists away empty-handed.

UTE suffered a mid-term crisis despite the signing of international defender Florian Urban, back from Mechelen in Belgium. After trailing 3-0 in that home defeat before 22,000, they lost away to bottom team Parmalat, and then managed only a 2-1 win at tiny Akaszto against FC Stadler.

Kispest-Honved were 1-0 losers at Sopron, where little Laszlo Kiss, not so long ago at Kispest as an assistant coach, took over from veteran Pal Csernai and saw his new side start with a victory.

The 20th round, had surprises elsewhere.too, as the BVSC-Dreher dam broke in a 6-0 defeat at mid-table Zalaegerszeg. In Budapest, Gyor were embarrassing Fradi, whose defender Hrutka (two) and forward Paling (one) were debited with own goals in the 4-1 defeat.

The most interesting match of the month, however, was at the Nep-Stadion, even if there were only 8,000 in attendance, the fixture being transmitted live on television.

Ferencvaros took a 4-0 lead over Kispest in the second half before conceding three late goals and holding on for a 4-3 victory.

So Ferencvaros have 45 points, three more than UTE, while Debrecen, sixth at the half-season break, have moved into third position.

Vasas and Parmalat remain, as they did at the end of last November, in the automatic relegation places.

BRIAN O'SULLIVAN

Slovakia

Karol starts well

THE return tie with France in Nantes was not quite the last throw of the dice for Jo Venglos, but the match in Poland on June 7 may well be.

With few reserves of suitable quality if the stars playing abroad have to be replaced, Venglos may have to depend on the other results, but objectively the chances of qualifying for England remain marginal.

However, as long as Real Madrid's Peter Dubovsky and captain Lubomir Moravcik of St Etienne stay fit there remains a chance, especially as a new star is emerging. Karol Prazenica,

Rising star . . . Hajduk Split's Karol Prazenica

24, began with Banska Bystrica and after a spell in Prague, first with Slavia, then with Dukla, moved on to Croatia and Hajduk Split, where he has been turning in good League and Champions Cup performances.

He seemed to have become the forgotten man when Venglos made his first selections on Slovakia's independence, but now he is in the squad with the difficult task of replacing the 1994 Slovak Footballer of the Year, Vladimir Kinder, at left-back.

Meanwhile the domestic championship continues, though with little spice: Slovan lead by a street. After a couple of modest outings, Inter were comfortably defeated to put the champions 12 points ahead of FC Kosice.

Spartak Trnava, in third place, continue to put together a good string of results under Karol Pecze. Tatran still do not seem to have recovered from their Cup-winners-Cup exploits, while SK Zilina are well adrift at the bottom.

BOB VAUGHAN

Ukraine

VLADIMIR ONYSCHENKO has quit as coach of Kiev Dynamo, following a run of poor results.

He had been in charge since November, when he took over from Jozef Szabo. The decision was taken 24 hours after Dynamo were knocked out of the Ukrainian Cup by Tavria Simferopol. Nikolai Pavlov has been named as acting coach.

the time-out title

Jerry Trecker previews the showpiece of women's soccer and assesses the pretenders to the crown America have held for the last four years

THE first FIFA Women's World Championship - soccer's august leaders remind us that you're not supposed to call it the Women's World Cup - took place in relative obscurity four years ago.

The Americans won, defeating Norway 2-1 in the final, but their fame was so limited that members of the team spent a fair bit of World Cup 1994 reminding anyone who would listen that the United States, indeed, were a world champion at the sport they were trying to sell to home folks.

The second edition of the tournament, set for Sweden June 5-18, should make a bigger splash. The hosts have a history of supporting the women's game, the United States will go to the tournament as defending champions with an array of stars and Olympic-related promotional aims, and FIFA, not surprisingly, have figured out that there could be money in the game.

The 12-team tournament, still a far cry from the FIFA World Cup, is compressed into two weeks, which means that the women who lift the trophy in Stockholm will have been subjected to six matches in the span of 14 days. Imagine the cries from a Carlos Alberto Parreira or Arrigo Sacchi if their teams had to tread such dangerous waters.

Although media attention is growing, there will be nothing like the contingent of nearly 7,500 reporters who followed the men around America last summer. Many of the games will be available on television - depending where you are and whether you have access to cable or satellite.

And FIFA cannot resist increasingly annoying experiments. The women's event will feature time-outs, as many as four per match, with coaches allowed to stop play once apiece within the first 25 minutes in each half.

Sceptics might argue that this is merely a commercial move - more time for TV ads - but FIFA claim they are merely responding to the coaches' desires to make tactical changes during a match.

All that aside, what of the football?

For starters, the 1995 championship should be much more competitive and wide open than might have been expected even a year ago. Germany, Norway and China all look like legitimate challengers to the USA.

Sweden have home advantage and a veteran team, and there could be a surprise from Australia and Canada. The women's game is growing quickly and minnows two years ago can be challengers today.

The cities of Gavle, Helsingborg, Karlstad and Vasteras will stage all the matches before the final, the only game scheduled for Stockholm. Prices have been kept reasonable and grounds are medium-sized, so the atmosphere should be comfortable.

The competition opens with three first-round groups. Norway seem to have the easiest path to the quarter-finals, having been drawn against Canada, England and Nigeria in the opening phase.

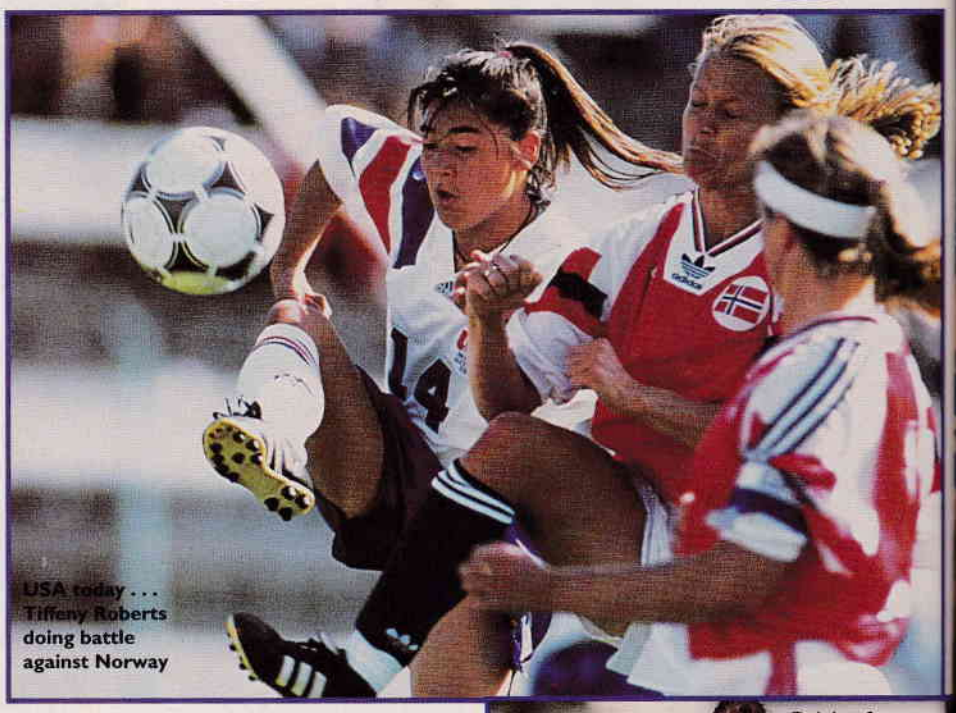
Sweden should advance, too, although Germany, Brazil and Japan will provide a good test for them in that group. The Americans and China will battle it out for first place in a tough section that also includes Australia and Denmark.

The quarter-finals will comprise the top two teams from each group and the two best third-placed teams. They will get an additional reward in the form of automatic places in the first women's Olympic football tournament in Atlanta in 1996.

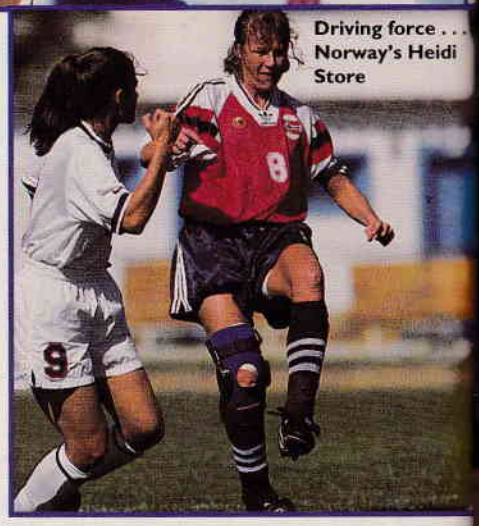
That is a particularly attractive goal for Australia, hosts of the 2000 Games.

The 1991 World Championship, played to full houses in China, succeeded in putting women's football on the FIFA calendar and even made a small profit. Success there encouraged the Americans to fund their side for a six-month training camp and to push for Olympic soccer as another vehicle to promote the sport worldwide. The game's leaders in the US expect success in Sweden and a gold medal at home the following summer.

For FIFA, this championship has to be measured in another way. It is set in the same two weeks when some vital European Championship qualifiers will be played and League titles will be decided in Germany and Spain. Will the 12 teams in Sweden carve a little space for themselves in European soccer coverage?



USA today . . . Tiffeny Roberts doing battle against Norway



Driving force . . . Norway's Heidi Store

Star turn . . . Mia Hamm of the US

A dozen of the best

AUSTRALIA
Coach Tom Sermanni, a Scot who took over a year ago, wants a quarter-finals spot from his relatively inexperienced team. Linda Hughes, Australia's all-time scoring leader - also a softball international - leads their bid.

BRAZIL
'Michael Jackson', really Marileia Dos Santos, is the high-scoring star of a team who go forward with abandon but are defensively suspect. Team-mate Sissi won the most valuable player trophy at their South American championship.

CANADA
Women's soccer here resembles the game in the US but is restricted in terms of player-development. Unlike America, where women's school and college soccer is big, Canada must depend on clubs to produce players. Midfielder Angela Kelly and forward Charmaine Hooper are the two high-quality stars. Hooper, whose brother Lyndon is a Canadian international striker, has professional experience in Japan.

CHINA
Coach Ma Yuanan's team can be brilliant but infuriatingly inconsistent. Their quick-passing style of play is reminiscent of the Dynamo Kiev sides who dominated Eastern Europe from 1975-1985 under the old Soviet system. There are no individual stars, but plenty of quality players.

DENMARK
They have talent but much depends on how well leading midfielder Helle Jensen plays and whether they can adjust to the likely loss of veteran captain Bonny Madsen, whose leg injury makes her doubtful. The Danes have a history of stumbling against rivals Germany and Norway.

ENGLAND
Karen Walker, a 26-year-old veteran of the Doncaster Belles, and Marieanne Spacey ***(below)***, the Arsenal midfielder, helped England qualify by reaching the European Championship semi-finals but the next step will prove difficult.

GERMANY
Coach George Bisanz has a European championship side to take to Sweden. A team who play very much to the style of the men's World Cup squad, they have powerful strikers, Heide Mohr and Silvia Neid ***(below)*** and talent at the back with Monika Boll and Anouschka Bernhard .

JAPAN
Coach Tamotsu Suzuki's team cannot be mentioned in the same competitive breath with China, a legitimate world championship contender. Futaba Kioka, 28, is called "the pioneer of Japanese women's football" for good reason. She has 28 goals in 57 starts, but she's not the nation's top scorer. That's Kaori Nagamine, with 44 goals in 54 games, and experience of club soccer with Reggiana in Italy.

NIGERIA
The last team to qualify, and an unknown quantity. The lack of top-level women's soccer in Africa means they arrive far short of experience.

NORWAY
In 14 meetings the Norwegians hold a 9-5 edge over the Americans but history also shows that they lost the game which mattered most, the first World Cup Final. Veteran goalkeeper Reidun Seth has a strong defence in front of her and Heidi Store is the motor in midfield. Twice European Champions, and expected to reach their second World Cup Final.

SWEDEN
Coach Bengt Simonson has one of the world's top midfielders, Lena Videkull , a 32-year-old veteran, to orchestrate attacks, plus a group of young players about ready to break through to the highest level. Helene Johansson on one side and Anneli Andelen on the other complete a midfield among the best in the tournament.

UNITED STATES
Michelle Akers is the best striker in the game, midfielders Kristine Lilly and Mia Hamm were American Players of the Year in 1993 and 1994, veteran Carla Overbeck anchors a good defence and goalkeeper Briana Scurry is the most athletic of a very athletic American team. Nine players remain from 1991 and they will be very hard to stop.

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A MONTH ago, the championship looked cut and dried for Blackburn. They were eight points ahead of Manchester United after 36 games, and looked to have the title within their reach.

Then, suddenly, Rovers suffered an attack of the jitters, while United increased the pressure with some important victories.

Blackburn suffered an unexpected 3-2 defeat at home to Manchester City, recovered to beat Crystal Palace 2-1, and then went down 2-0 at West Ham. United, meanwhile, thrashed Leicester 4-0, drew 0-0 at home with Chelsea – their bogey side in the League – and then won a spirited game 3-2 against Coventry at Highfield Road.

Suddenly, from seemingly being out of touch, United were back within five points of Blackburn, with a game in hand against struggling Sheffield Wednesday, and ready to pounce should Rovers falter again.

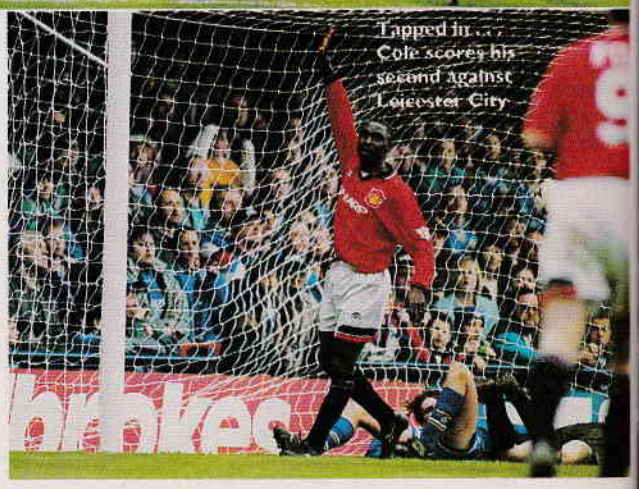
While the title race is closer than expected, it is still in Blackburn's hands. They have two games left to play, at home to Newcastle and away to Liverpool. Victory against Newcastle should not prove a problem, which should leave Kenny Dalglish's side needing victory at Anfield – where Dalglish enjoyed so much success as a player and a manager – to clinch the title.

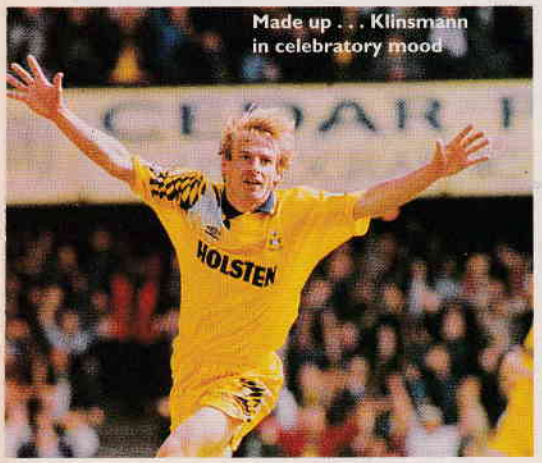
It would be foolish to suggest that Rovers have collapsed, but they have put themselves under pressure with the below-par performances against Manchester City and West Ham. Much now depends on Alan Shearer, who hardly had a sniff at Upton Park. If he is on top of his form, then he should enjoy more success against Newcastle's fragile defence, and the balance may swing back towards Ewood.

United, of course, are not giving up without a fight. The 3-2 win at Coventry – courtesy of two more goals by Andy Cole – was achieved without several regular first-teamers, and the youngsters who deputised did themselves and their club proud. The only down beat for United was Gary Neville's booking, which takes him to 41 disciplinary points and a possible one-match ban . . . which would rule him out of the FA Cup Final.

Neville, a right-back, is mature well beyond his 20 years, and he looks the pick of the young crop coming through at Old Trafford, which includes Nicky Butt, Paul Scholes, David Beckham and Neville's brother Philip.

Snuffed out . . . West Ham stop Shearer from breaking through


Tapped in . . . Cole scores his second against Leicester City



Made up . . . Klinsmann in celebratory mood

At the other end of the table, Ipswich and Leicester are, as expected, relegated, with Norwich looking most likely to join them.

Norwich, who have plummetted from relative safety to relegation status, are in dire trouble. They sacked their manager, John Deehan, a month ago, but results have not improved since then. Now, there are renewed calls for the chairman, Robert Chase, to step down, from fans who are in open revolt.

The remaining relegation place looks set to go to Crystal Palace or Aston Villa, though three other clubs are still in danger.

Palace's 3-1 defeat against Southampton leaves them fourth from bottom, two points behind Villa with a game in hand. Manager Alan Smith savaged his players after the Southampton defeat, and is now being pressed to apologise by the club's board, in yet another outbreak of in-fighting at Selhurst Park.

Villa had a lucky escape in the 1-1 draw with Manchester City, their goal being scored by Ugo Ehiogu, with a hand in true Maradona style. It could prove a vital point for Villa, though, who have only two games left, fewer than the rest of the strugglers.

Jurgen Klinsmann won the Football Writers' Association Player of the Year award, the second German to do so, following Bert Trautmann in 1956. The debate on Klinsmann's future goes on, with regular updates from White Hart Lane and Bayern Munich claiming the player is theirs.

Klinsmann has a year left to run on his Tottenham contract, but he must be tempted by the money on offer at Bayern, plus the chance to return home to his family.

Another player whose future seems to be in the melting pot is Paul Gascoigne. Lazio seem prepared to let him go this summer, and no fewer than TEN British clubs are believed to be interested in signing him, including Manchester United, Leeds, Everton, Newcastle and Rangers – both the Glasgow and West London varieties.

Another club rumoured to be interested are Middlesbrough, who have just won the First Division title during Bryan Robson's first year in charge at Ayresome Park. It also will be Robson's last there, because the club are moving to their new Riverside Stadium in time for next season. Robson has been promised up to £10million to spend on new players, and Gazza is believed to be at the top of his list.

The League season ends on May 14 (a Sunday, with TV viewers put before at-the-gate fans) but there is plenty of action to look forward to in England this summer. After the FA Cup Final, on May 20, England play host to Sweden, Japan and Brazil in the Umbro Cup, starting at the beginning of June.

As a sort of dress rehearsal for the European Championship next year, the matches are being played at Wembley and four League grounds: Aston Villa, Everton, Leeds and Nottingham Forest. England open and close the event at Wembley, against Japan and Brazil respectively, and face Sweden at Elland Road in between.

This will be England's first game on home soil away from Wembley since 1973, when Northern Ireland moved a 'home' match to Goodison Park because of political unrest in Ulster. Goodison also was the venue for the last non-Wembley England home game, against Poland in 1966.

Still the sleaze will not go away: Tranmere's Jamie Hughes has been accused by the FA of taking a performance-enhancing drug. He claims he had a 'spiked' drink in a club.

JOHN KELLY

Scotland

Airdrie aim to 'Do a Raith'

THE crazy gang are back at Hampden! For the second time in four years, Airdrie will compete in the Scottish Cup Final.

This is a remarkable achievement for such a small club, even more creditable in view of the fact that the Lanarkshire side have spent the entire season without a home ground, playing at Clyde's Broadwood while construction of their own new stadium takes place.

Airdrie booked their Cup Final clash with Celtic by defeating Hearts in the semi-final, as they had done in 1992 when they went on to lose 2-1 to treble-winning Rangers.

Victory was particularly satisfying for manager Alex MacDonald, sacked by Hearts in 1990, and for Airdrie team-mates Kenny Black and Jimmy Sandison, both former Hearts players.

MacDonald's men will be suitably fired up for the Hampden encounter on May 27, but they are keen to shake off the 'hard men' image with which they were burdened around the time of the 1992 final.

"We'll always play with full commitment" said club captain Sandison, "but our style's a bit different nowadays. We like to think we can play quality football. That's been reflected in our form this season."

The introduction of skilful midfielders such as Alan Lawrence and Paul Harvey has reinforced Sandison's views and Airdrie are hoping that they can emulate First Division neighbours Raith Rovers, who defeated Celtic in the Coca-Cola (League) Cup Final in November, thereby aspiring to an unprecedented place in next season's UEFA Cup.

Celtic will be determined not to slip this time. Their fans are desperate for a trophy, having been denied such success for six years, and the players know that they cannot afford to let them down again.

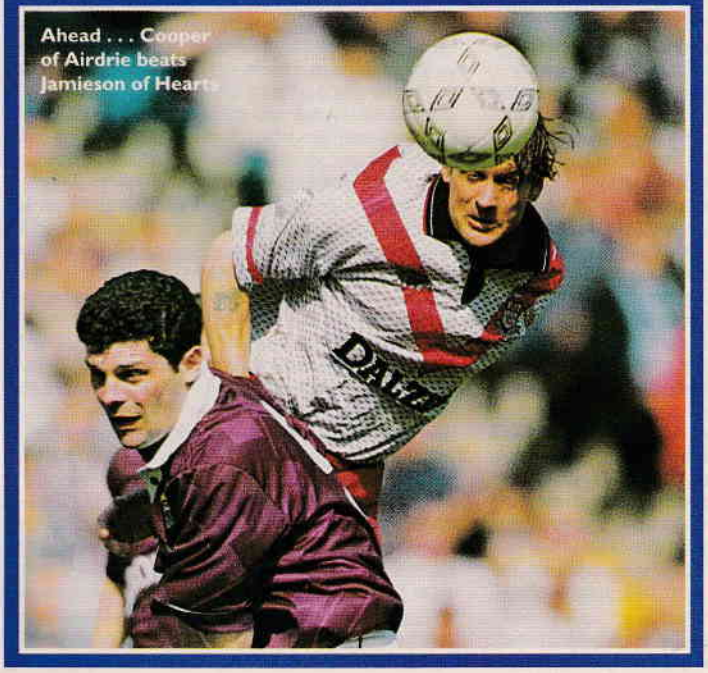
As expected, Rangers wrapped up their seventh successive Championship with consummate ease, reaching the required points total with five games remaining.

European success continues to elude the club, however, and chairman David Murray is determined to address that situation by way of some intensive capital-raising ventures.

The capacity of Ibrox will shortly be increased to 51,000 and supporters are being offered the opportunity, for a one-off payment of £399, to secure their right to buy a season ticket for the next 25 years.

Murray feels that this will help generate the necessary revenue to help the club strengthen their squad with the acquisition of further continental imports. The latest target is Swedish international Jesper Blomqvist, now with IFK Gothenburg.

ALAN FAIRLEY



Ahead . . . Cooper of Airdrie beats Jamieson of Hearts

Northern Ireland

Crus cruise to the title

UNFASHIONABLE Crusaders duly clinched their first Irish League Championship since 1976 with four games still to play, thus underlining their superiority over clubs who had invested more money in players, but who lacked the consistency and team-spirit shown by Roy Walker's team.

Crusaders will thus be one of Northern Ireland's representatives in next season's UEFA Cup, where they will be joined by Glenavon.

The Lurgan-based side finished runners-up, having made sure of their position by defeating Crusaders 3-1 at the latter's Shore Road ground after the 'Crus' had been presented with the Gibson Cup – the League Championship trophy – before the 28th game of the 30-match programme.

That was only Crusaders' second defeat of the campaign. Under manager Nigel Best, who took over at Glenavon in December, the team lost only three of their last 16 games, winning 12 and drawing one of them. Glenavon overcame the problems of a leaky defence through the efforts of free-scoring forwards, such as 25-year-old Glenn Ferguson, who has averaged a goal a game in the League.

Last season's 'Double' Champions have been less than impressive in the Championship, but reached the Irish Cup Final thanks to a 2-1 victory over Ards in the semi-final replay. In the first game Yorkshireman Gary Haylock missed the chance to send the 'Blues' into the Final when Ards keeper Paul Kee saved his 28th-minute penalty.

Truth to tell, it was one of the few highlights in a game which neither team deserved to win. Haylock made amends in the second match, setting up a chance, converted by Pat Fenlon, and scoring the second goal in a 2-1 victory. The County Down team were aggrieved that they had a strong penalty claim ignored in the last quarter of the game when they were pressing hard for an equaliser.

Underdogs Carrick Rangers defended mightily against Portadown in the other semi-final, with 23-year-old goalkeeper Paul Miskeely their hero. He made a series of top-class saves to thwart the efforts of Portadown, who dominated play, but the favourites fell to a goal after 36 minutes from 32-year-old Geoff Ferris, who had joined Carrick last November to replace broken-leg victim Sammy Shiels.

The disturbances during and after the quarter-final Irish Cup ties between Portadown and Cliftonville were strongly condemned by the Irish Football Association. Both clubs received a fine of £1,500, and were warned that a repetition would probably bring a closure of their grounds.

Bryan Hamilton's team restored pride, which had been injured in the 4-0 debacle at Windsor Park last November, with a well-deserved 1-1 draw against the Republic of Ireland at Lansdowne Road.

Scorer of the goal that meant so much and which keeps flickering hopes of qualification for Euro '96 alive was Iain Dowie, from a run and cross by youngster Keith Gillespie, who has benefitted enormously from regular first-team football since his transfer from Manchester United to Newcastle United.

ROY KITSON

Level . . . Dowie after equalising for Northern Ireland against the Republic

Argentina again

Jonathan Shallard reports from the World Youth Cup in Qatar

ARGENTINA regained the World Youth crown they last won in the heady young days of Diego Maradona and Ramon Diaz in Japan in 1979. But while the 1995 event will be long remembered it will not be, unfortunately, for the right reasons.

As if all the haggling over the venue – first it was Nigeria, then it wasn't Nigeria, then it was Nigeria, then it wasn't again, then it was neat and tidy Qatar – was not enough, the finals turned up a match-fixing scandal.

The issue exploded when the host nation, at the instigation of FIFA, deported five people for allegedly trying to bribe some of the game's teenage superstars with offers of money and sexual favours.

FIFA identified the five as Malaysian Kim Tee Teo, believed to be the ringleader, Pravit Limapongpas, from Thailand, Indonesian Sui Song Tjong and two Malaysian prostitutes, Geok Choo Tan and Wong Chwee May. FIFA said none of the players subjected to the bribe attempts had accepted the offers.

The five were deported to Malaysia, which, ironically, is the venue for the next World Youth Cup in 1997. Not that this venue may survive all the recent betting-and-bribe related scandals. FIFA president Joao Havelange says: "The results of the investigation into the allegations made in Qatar will be analysed. The choice of Malaysia as the 1997 venue was made by FIFA's executive. If there is to be a change, it will be decided by the committee at its next meeting on May 31.

"We will continue to be vigilant to make sure there is no repetition of what has happened here. It is very sad that these people have tried to corrupt the youth and contaminate the competition."

Malaysia may, in any case, save themselves the bother of controversy which surrounded the Nigerian host award, by withdrawing first. Tengku Abdullah, deputy president of the Football Association of Malaysia, said that the FAM would itself suggest a change of venue if the deep-rooted corruption within south-east Asian football had not been purged long before then.

Abdullah said he had explained to Havelange the problem of soccer bribery in Malaysia and the actions being taken to combat it. He added: "I informed him the situation is under control now after police have questioned almost 130 players. I also told him that 21 players have been banished under the Restricted Residence Act while 58 others have been suspended for between one year and four years."

He thought FIFA had been satisfied with the action taken but feared the problem could recur.

After all that, it was a relief to get down to the football itself in which Argentina bore out the pride of senior national coach Daniel Passarella in what he considers to be one of the most talented generations of young players anywhere in the world. The failure of Europe to provide a winner was not surprising considering the controversy which delaying the finals had engendered.

Celebration time . . . the Argentinians with the trophy after their 2-0 win over Brazil

Germany sent a virtual second team because of problems with club release – and then were upset to be eliminated in the first round after a 2-1 defeat by Costa Rica and a 1-1 draw with Australia.

The days when European countries underestimated the strengths of youth football elsewhere around the world should have been long gone and the Germans paid the penalty in disapproval back home.

By contrast Spain, despite their own player-release problems, did bring an excellent team to the finals and should have been rewarded with third place, had they not grown fatally complacent after seizing a 2-0 lead over always-dangerous Portugal in the Third Place Play-off. Portugal, twice winners of the Cup, hit back to win 3-2.

As for the Qatari hosts – admitted to everyone's delight at the last minute after the grumpy Nigerians self-destructed – their lack of preparation was reflected in their last-place finish in Group A. A pity. They had started well with a 1-1 draw against Russia courtesy of a spectacular goal when Mohammed al-Enazi chested down a long free-kick and fired home a first-time 20-yard volley.

A 50,000 crowd in the Khalifa national stadium cheered players and Danish coach Jorgen Larsen from the pitch but that was the last chance. They then lost 1-0 to Syria and 2-0 to Brazil without ever threatening another serious spark. Larsen was not, however, disappointed considering the circumstances of their participation. As he said: "Most of my players have come straight into the tournament from their college examinations so I think they did very well."

Russia finished runners-up in Group A behind Brazil, whose group leadership justified their status as pre-event favourites. They had opened their campaign in style with an entertaining 6-0 thrashing of Syria. Reinaldo, Athletico Mineira's 18-year-old striker, hit a glorious hat-trick with goals in the 11th (penalty kick), 24th and 72nd minutes. Elder, Caio and Murilo added the rest.

Spain were top scorers in the first round, totalling 13 goals in their games in group B. Like Brazil, the Spaniards made a flying start with a 5-1 win over a Burundi team which comprised players from both the rival Hutu and Tutsi tribes. Burundi dominated the initial exchanges but, once Spain had opened the scoring after 25 minutes through Sanchez Morientes it was all over. Real Madrid wonderboy Raul, having created the opening goal, then scored a delightful solo himself 10 minutes later. A penalty from Junyvent Garcia and two late strikes from Lizardi Extederria completed the rout. Burundi, whose Nadayai Shimie capitalised on a defensive slip for an 82nd-minute consolation, ended the match with nine men after Brazilian referee Rezende sent off Ahishakiye Morki in the 57th and Saleh Omar in the 59th minutes. Spain's De La Pena Lopez was also dismissed in an early-tournament rush of red cards.

Burundi's coach Badouin Ribakare accepted defeat with good grace and said: "We learned a lot. We hope to correct our mistakes in the next matches." But there was not enough time and Burundi finished bottom of the group. Spain qualified easily, ahead of Japan.

The opening match on Group C was a repeat of the Final of the senior event from 1978 with Argentina again beating Holland, this time by 1-0 and thanks to an injury-time goal by substitute Andres Garrone. He had been on the pitch for just 10 minutes when he tapped in a left-wing cross in the third minute of injury

Hugs and kisses . . . the Argentinians celebrate Biagini's goal in the Final

World beater . . . Biagini takes on the Brazilian defence

time. By that time, the Dutch had been reduced to 10 men with Mel Shoenmakers having been sent off in the 75th minute for a foul on Ariel Ibagaza.

Shoenmakers had been booked originally in the 22nd minute for bringing down Sebastian Peria in the penalty area. Incredibly, Dutch goalkeeper Jim van Fessem stopped the penalty kick twice from two different players. Ibagaza missed the penalty when Van Fessem dived to his right to save. The kick was retaken because Tom Van der Leegte had been encroaching in the area but Carlos Arangio also had his penalty saved by Van Fessem.

Argentina lost next time out, by 1-0 to Portugal who topped the group. Holland were eliminated along with a Honduras side whose defence proved the worst in the finals, conceding 14 goals in their three games.

Germany, in Group D, never looked convincing after opening up with a 1-1 draw against a Cameroon side who topped the group to regain a little international pride after their senior team's deeply disappointing appearance at last year's senior World Cup finals in the United States. Germany had the advantage of a penalty, converted by skipper Castern Hinz after Marcel Rath was pulled down by Nlend Wome in the 10th minute. Cameroon hit back deservedly through Simo Augustin in the last seconds of injury time. The Germans had, by then, contributed to the disciplinary score with Rath having been sent off midway through the second half for a second bookable offence.

The Brazilians, bidding to win their fourth world youth championship, squeezed past Japan 2-1 in the quarter-finals, Spain maintained their momentum by thrashing a limited Russian side 4-1, Portugal needed extra time to dispose of a promising Australian side and Argentina took revenge for a famous defeat by Cameroon (at Italia '90, of course) by defeating Cameroon 2-0.

There was little doubt that the semi-finals comprised the four best teams in the event – though it was a surprise when Spain collapsed to a 3-0 defeat by the Argentinians.

Spain even dominated the first half but Argentinian goalkeeper Joaquin Irigoytia came to his team's rescue with three good saves, two from Ivan De La Pena. Roger Junyent hit the post for Spain from a 34th minute free-kick but by then Argentina had seized control when the fascinating Leonardo Biagini – who had been sent home early in the first round because of illness – pounced on a poor defensive header from Spanish defender Cesar Martin after 21 minutes. Walter Coyette added Argentina's second after 53 minutes and Spain were reduced to just 10 men one minute later when referee Hermann Albrecht sent off Antoni Tejedor for handball. Substitute Raul Chapparo added the third goal with 10 minutes left, converting a rebound after he had stabbed a Biagini cross against a post.

Nothing so straightforward in the other semi-final where Mexican referee Pascual Rebolledo needed a police escort from the pitch after Brazil had snatched a dramatic injury-time winner to beat Portugal 1-0. The police intervened as angry Portuguese players mobbed Rebolledo – angry that he allowed four minutes of overtime after having previously sent off Alfredo Boia after 84 minutes and Roberto Beto in the third minute of injury time.

Caio struck for Brazil a minute later but, for all the Portuguese protestations, victory was no more than Brazil deserved. Portugal created only one opening in the entire game, in the second half when Nuno Ribeiro had a header saved by Fabio. Apart from that, Brazil dominated. Leonardo hit the post with a 27th minute free-kick while Portuguese goalkeeper Joaquim Quim pulled off fine saves to deny Ze Elias, Glaucio and Marcelo. Brazil also had a goal disallowed in the opening minute of the second half when Luizao's shot was ruled out for offside.

Portugal's consolation was to finish third when they recovered from a first-half hangover to defeat Spain 3-2 after being 2-0 down at the interval. Stand-in skipper Nuno Ribeiro, who took over the armband after the half-time substitution of Jorge Madureira, scored twice in the sort of thriller rarely seen on these also-ran occasions.

That left the stage clear for the all-South American Final in which Brazil were seeking to emulate their seniors with a fourth success. Not that coach Jairo Leal was as satisfied with his preparation as Carlos Alberto Parreira had been almost a year ago. He said: "When we won the last time in Australia in 1993, our squad had 45 days together to prepare. This time we had only 10 days and that was with five players missing. There is always too much pressure on us because, when we win, it is treated as normal but even finishing second is no good."

Brazil were pre-match favourites despite the absence of suspended skipper Marcelo. History was on their side. Brazil beat Argentina 1-0 in the 1983 Final in Mexico and triumphed again, this time by 2-0, in the South American qualifying tournament in January.

But favourites status is no guarantee of victory and this time it was Brazil's turn to end a world final as runners-up. Goals by Biagini and substitute Francisco Guerrero provided Argentina with the cup in a tense match which featured numerous bookings (Brazil five, Argentina three) and one sending off (Brazil's Cesar after 78 minutes).

Biagini, of Newell's Old Boys, put the Argentinians ahead after 26 minute. Brazil never gave up but they must have suspected it was not to be their day when Reinaldo missed a superb chance to equalize in the 40th minute as he lifted an awkwardly-bouncing ball over the bar from close range.

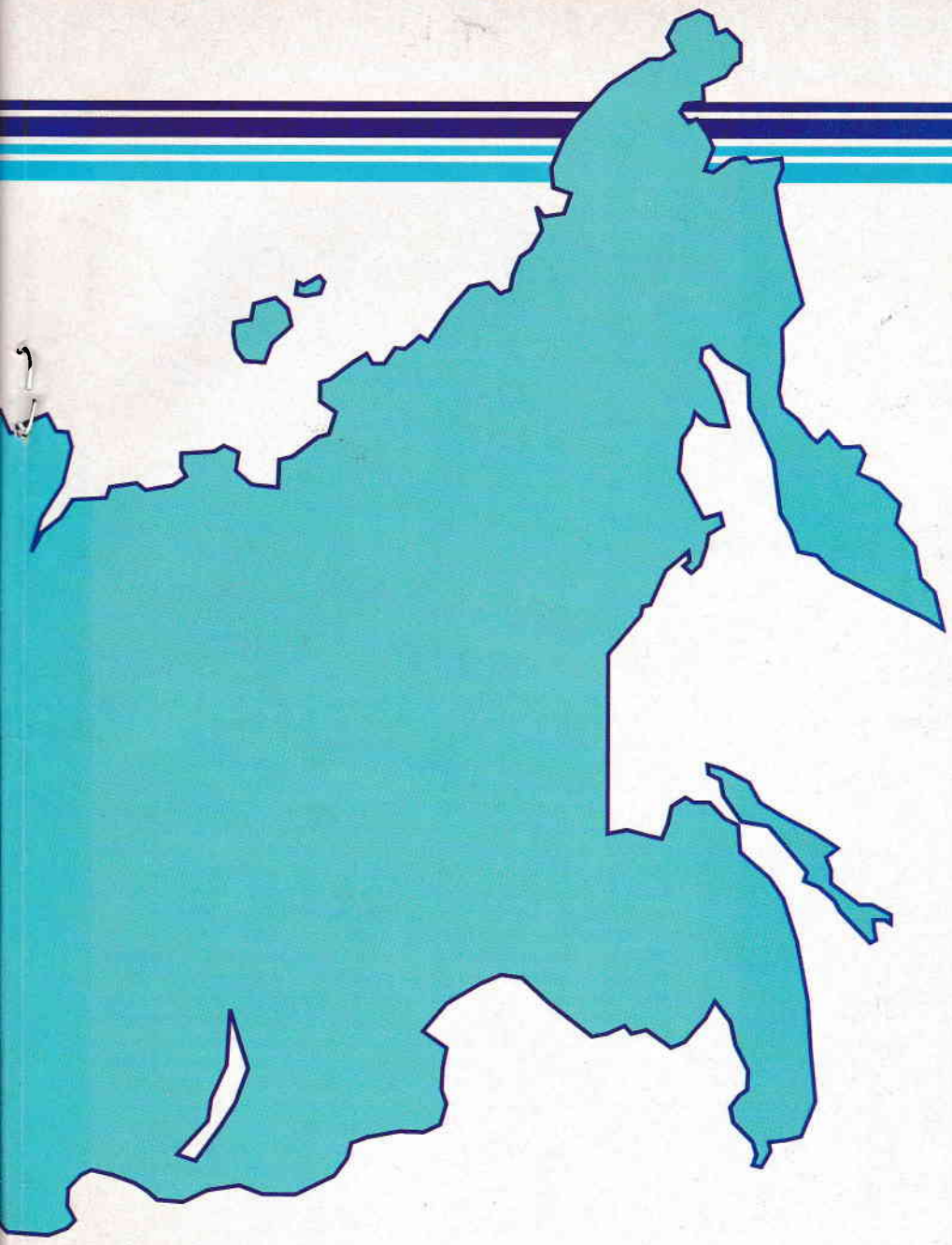
Guerrero, who scored the opening goal of the championship, then completed the upset win with a delicate chip over goalkeeper Fabio two minutes from time – prompting wild scenes of jubilation in the Argentinian camp. Brazil had thus conceded twice as many goals in the Final as in the entire rest of the tournament!

"Today, we challenged a giant and won," said Argentine coach Jose Nestor Pekerman. "We're happy for the whole country. Argentina expected this and we've fulfilled that wish. We've grown as a side throughout the tournament and today we showed how much we've progressed."

Brazilian coach Jairo Leal joined in praise of Argentina, saying "They played an excellent tactical game and we couldn't find a way through. Instead of thinking about the match, we let our emotions get the better of us."

Thus at least, by the end of the finals, everyone was talking about the football.

altered states



We go back to the USSR to give you the WORLD SOCCER guide to the former Soviet republics. It's everything you wanted to know about Moldova, Latvia and Kazakhstan, but were too afraid to ask . . .

IF YOU'RE looking for someone to blame for the UEFA Intertoto Cup, the summer tournament where 60 teams from across Europe will compete for just four places in next season's UEFA Cup preliminary round, then you could do a lot worse than point the finger of suspicion at Mikhail Gorbachev.

It was the former Soviet leader's policies of glasnost and perestroika in the 1980s that led to the break-up of the Soviet Union and the birth of 15 new nations, all desperate to express their national identity in sporting competition.

The three Baltic states of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia were the first to make the break from a Soviet superstate that was home to a remarkable 120 different nationalities. The Baltics gained independence from the Union in time to enter the draw for the 1994 World Cup qualifiers. Georgia and Ukraine followed soon after.

Football played its part in the independence movements, providing proof, if any were ever needed, that football is much more than just a game.

Many of the republics had a team competing in the Supreme Soviet League who often doubled as the republic's national side: Zhalgiris Vilnius in Lithuania, Tbilisi Dynamo in Georgia, Netfchi Baku in Azerbaijan, Ararat Yerevan in Armenia. Supporting those teams was a way of expressing your backing for the nationalist cause

Ararat, the top club side in Armenia, is also the name of a mountain in neighbouring Turkey that once belonged to Armenia. So when fans chanted 'Ararat!' at Soviet League matches against teams from Moscow, the Russians could have been mistaken for thinking they were just supporting their team. But the Ararat fans were also expressing their support for the Armenian nationalist cause. Another Armenian football chant, 'Hayer!', meaning 'Armenians!', was taken up and used as a rallying call by the wider Armenian nationalist movement.

Players from the teams which competed in the Supreme Soviet League now form the backbone of their respective national sides, while the club sides have, not surprsingly, taken a firm grip of the new domestic leagues.

Of the 20-strong CIS squad that travelled to Sweden for the 1992 European Championship finals, only three players – Ukrainians Mikhailichenko and Kuznetzov and Belorussian Aleinikov – chose to play for the country of their birth. The rest, not surpisingly given FIFA's decision to give Russia the Soviets' berth at the USA World Cup, opted for Russian nationality.

The results since independence suggest we haven't heard the last of the former Soviet states. Wales, rolled over in Moldova in a European Championship qualifier last October, will also have Georgia on the mind for some time to come after November's 5-0 humliation in Tbilisi. And Uzbekistan's victory at the 1994 Asian Games, when they came from nowhere to take the gold medal, suggests there may a few more shocks in years to come.

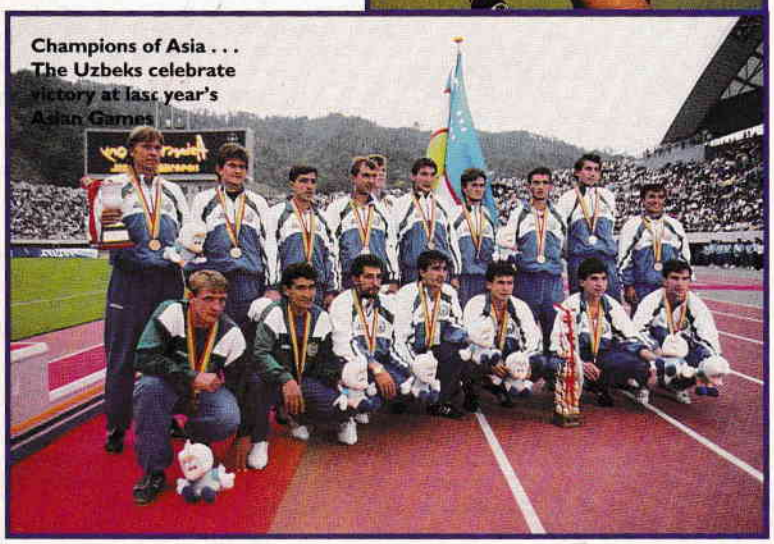
GAVIN HAMILTON

ARMENIA
Football Federation of Armenia
9 Abovian St
375001 Yerevan
Tel 007-8852-527582/014/974
Fax 007-8852-523376
Stadium Rajdan, Yerevan (70,000)
FIFA world ranking 144
Population 3,283,000
Ethnic groups 88% Armenian, 6% Azerbaijan, 6% others
National team colours Orange shirts, blue shorts, red socks
Champions Shirak Gyumri (1992, 1994), Ararat Yerevan (1993)
Ararat Yerevan, Soviet double winners in 1973, remain the most powerful force in Armenian football and Ararat players form the backbone of a national side who have made little impression in the Euro '96 qualifiers. Few Armenians have made their mark abroad, though defenders Yervand Soukiassian and Sarkys Oganessian play for Borispol (Ukraine) and Moscow Lokomotiv (Russia) respectively.

AZERBAIJAN
The Association of Football Federations of Azerbaijan
H. Hagiev Kuc. 42
370009 Baku
Tel 00994-12-950542
Fax 00994-12-989393
Stadium Republica, Baku (37,000)
FIFA world ranking 148
Population 7,000,000
Ethnic groups 78% Azerbaijan, 8% Russian, 14% others
National team colours White shirts, blue shorts, white socks
Champions Turan Tuaz (1994), Karabakh Agdam (1993), Neftchi Baku (1992)
Neftchi Baku, former members of the Supreme Soviet League – they finished third in 1966 – remain a strong force in Azerbaijan football. Players from Neftchi, 1993 champions Karabakh Agdan and the wonderfully-named Kapaz Ganja make up the bulk of the national side, although the country's best play abroad. Velli Kasumov, top scorer in the 1992 Russian Championship with Moscow Dynamo, is now with the surprise team of the Spanish season, Real Betis, and fellow striker Nazim Suleimanov plays for Spartak Vladikavkaz in Russia. Midfielder Said Deniev plays for Beitar Jerusalem in Israel, while Timerlan Guseynov is with Chernomerets Odessa of the Ukraine. The Euro '96 campaign has not been helped by having to play home fixtures in Trabzon, Turkey, because of security concerns.

BELARUS
The Football Association of the Republics of Belarus
8-2 Kirov St.
220600 Minsk
Tel 00375-0172-272325
00375-0172-204540
Fax 00375-0172-272920
Stadium Dynamo, Minsk (50,050)
FIFA world ranking 123
Population 10,280,000
Ethnic groups 80% Belarussian, 12% Russian, 8% others
National team colours White and red shirts, white or red shorts, white or red socks.
Champions Minsk Dynamo (1992, 1993, 1994)
Football in Belarus means one team and one team only – Minsk Dynamo. The only team to run them close last season was Dynamo-93 Minsk . . . Dynamo's reserves. Supreme Soviet Champions in 1982, in many ways Dynamo are the national side. Despite a wealth of experience – former Juventus midfielder Sergei Aleinikov played 77 times for the Soviet Union – results in the Euro '96 qualifiers have been disappointing. However, with the republic's best players gaining experience abroad – midfielder Andrei Zygmantovic plays for Racing Santander in Spain and Yuri Antonovic is with CSKA Moscow – and youngsters such as Dynamo's 22-year-old striker Petr Kachuro maturing fast, the international future for Belarus looks promising.

Uzbek star . . . forward Igor Shkvyrin

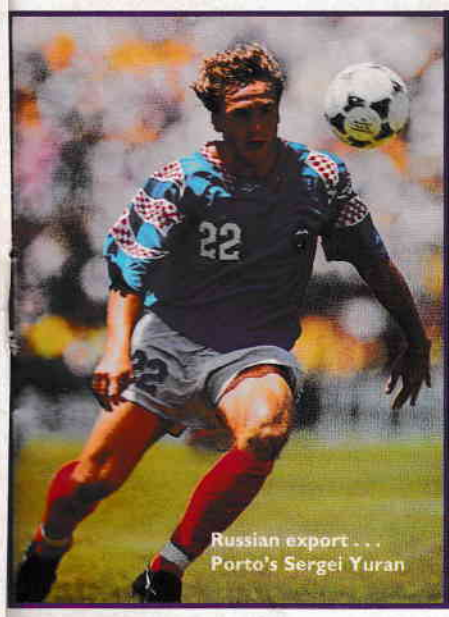

Champions of Asia . . . The Uzbeks celebrate victory at last year's Asian Games

ESTONIA
Eesti Jalgpalli Liit
Regati Pst. 1
Tallinn EE0019
Tel 00372-2-238253/237758
Fax 00372-2-237758/622
Stadiums Kadriorg (6,000), Kalev (12,000)
FIFA world ranking 119
Population 1,582,000
Ethnic groups 65% Estonian, 30% Russian, 5% others
National team colours White/blue shirts, black shorts, white/blue socks
Champions Flora Tallinn (1994), Norma Tallinn (1992, 1993)
The national championship has been the domain of three clubs from the capital: Flora, Norma and Tevalte. However, the national side are dominated by players from one team – Flora Tallinn. Flora are a club exclusive for ethnic Estonians, while Norma and Tevalte field teams largely made up of ethnic Russians. Goalkeeper Mart Poom, with Portsmouth in England, and Risto Kallijend of Norma are the only men not from Flora to appear for the national side in the, so far disappointing, Euro '96 qualifiers. For a nation brought up on Flora, it's hardly a blooming generation . . .

GEORGIA
Football Federation of the Republics of Georgia
5 Iamanidze St
Tbilisi 380012
Tel 007-8832-340744/960820
Fax 0049-5151/13086
Stadium Dynamo, Tbilisi (75,000)
FIFA world ranking 98
Population 5,401,000
Ethnic groups 70% Georgian, 7% Armenian, 6% Russian, 17% others
National team colours Red shirts, black shorts, white/black socks
Champions Tbilisi Dynamo (1991, 1992, 1993, 1994)
Tbilisi Dynamo, Soviet Supreme Champions in 1964 and 1978 and European Cup-winners Cup winners in 1981, dominate Georgian football. The ease with which Dynamo have won their five titles is turning the crowds away, forcing clubs further and further into debt. The national team, coached by former Soviet international Alexander Chivadze, have achieved some impressive results in the Euro '96 qualifiers and currently lie third in Group 7. Georgian exports include the Arveladze twins, Shota and Archil, who recently returned to Turkey for a second spell with Trabzonspor, forward Temur Katsbaia of AEK Athens and defender Kakhaber Tskhadadze of Eintracht Frankfurt.

LATVIA
Latvijas Futvola Federacija
1 Augsiela
Riga LV-1009
Tel 0037-12-333766
Fax 0037-12-333429
Stadium Daugava, Riga (15,000)
FIFA world ranking 74
Population 2,694,000
Ethnic groups 54% Latvian, 33% Russian, 13% others
National team colours Red Shirts, white shorts, red socks
Champions Skonto Riga (1991, 1992, 1993, 1994)
Players from Skonto Riga, champions for the past four seasons, along with those of Olympia Riga and RAF Yelgava, form the basis of the national side built by Yanus Gilis. Latvia avoided the wooden spoon in the 1994 World Cup qualifiers, but progress on the road to Euro '96 has been slow. No Latvian ever played for the Soviet Union and very few play abroad. Those who do tend to head for Sweden. Of the current internationals, Ainars Linards plays for Sparvagens FF in Sweden and Valery Ivanov is with Helsingborgs.

LITHUANIA
Lithuanian Football Federation
3/11 Rinktines Str.
LIT-2051 Vilnius
Tel 003702-353654
Fax 003702-353651
Stadium Zhalgiris, Vilnius (15,000)
FIFA world ranking 61
Population 3,723,000
Ethnic groups 80% Lithuanian, 9% Russian, 7% Polish, 4% others
National team colours Yellow shirts, green shorts, yellow socks
Champions ROMAR Mazeikiai (1994), Ekranas Panevezys (1993), Zhalgiris Vilnius (1992)
Zhalgiris Vilnius, the republic's top club side, were the only Lithuanian side to be involved in the Soviet Supreme League when Lithuania left the League in 1990. In recent seasons they have been overshadowed by ROMAR Mazeikiai, Lithuania's answer to Blackburn Rovers, but Zhalgiris still provide many of the players for the national side. Valdas Ivanauskas is the star of Lithuanian football. The 28-year-old former Soviet international forward spent three years with FK Austria before moving to Hamburg. National team goalkeeper Gintaras Stauce, formerly with Moscow Spartak, now plays for Galatasaray in Turkey.



Russian export . . . Porto's Sergei Yuran

Welsh conqueror . . . Moldova's Spiridon celebrates victory over Wales

MOLDOVA
Federatia Moldoveneasca de Fotbal
Bd Stefan cel Mare 73
277001 Chisinau
Tel 00373-3732-224498
Fax 00373-3732-222244
Stadium Republican, Chisinau (22,000)
FIFA world ranking 110
Population 4,359,000
Ethnic groups 65% Moldovan, 14% Ukrainian, 13% Russian, 8% others
National team colours red and blue striped shirts, blue shorts, yellow socks
Champions Zimbru Chisinau (1992, 1993, 1994)
Zimbru Chisinau, as Nistru of Kishinev, achieved a best placing in the Supreme Soviet League of sixth, in 1957 – an indication of Moldova's poor status in Soviet football. It has been difficult for national coach Ion Karas to maintain the spectacular start to the Euro '96 campaign, especially as he has fielded players almost exclusively from Zimbru and Tiligul Tiraspol. The exception has been defender Alexandru Guzun, the sole foreign-based Moldovan, who plays in neighbouring Romania for Rapid Bucharest. It's worth mentioning that crowd trouble is not a big problem in Moldova. Despite the presence in the First Division of FC Agro . . .

RUSSIA
Russian Football Union
Luzhnetskaja Naberezhnaja 8
119270 Moskva
Tel 095 2010834
Fax 095 2011303
Stadium Luzhniki, Moscow (96,200)
FIFA world ranking 17
Population 147,386,000
Ethnic groups 82% Russian, 18% others
National team colours White shirts, blue shorts, red socks
Champions Spartak Moscow (1992, 1993, 1994)
Moscow Spartak – the 'people's team' in the days of the Soviet Union because they were not associated with any single part of Soviet society – remain in the most successful and best supported team in the country. But they, and the Russian League, have problems. Attendances are falling. The revelations of corrupt referees has disillusioned many, while others miss the rivalry of the traditional battles with teams from the republics. Russian clubs also have to contend with the burning desire of players to seek their fortunes in the West. Spartak still have the pick of the best young talent – they recently signed 19-year-old goalkeeper Ruslan Nigmatulin from KamAZ. However, a look at some of the players they have sold in recent seasons – Karpin to Real Sociedad, Lediakhov (Sporting Gijon), Bestchastnykh (Werder Bremen), Popov and Radchenko (Racing Santander) – suggests they are unable to prevent the export-led boom continuing. The rebels who spent USA '94 at home are now back in from the cold and back in the national side. Their main demand – to see the back of national coach Pavel Sadyrin – was heeded soon after the disappointment of USA '94, opening the door for Spartak coach Oleg Romantsev.

UKRAINE
Football Federation of Ukraine
Ulinovyih 252023
Kiev-23
Tel 044-2649430
Fax 044-2647564
Stadium Republican, Kiev (100,690)
FIFA world ranking 81
Population 51,838,000.
Ethnic groups 72% Ukrainian, 22% Russian, 6% others
National team colours Yellow shirts, blue shorts, yellow socks
Champions Kiev Dynamo (1992, 1993, 1994)
Although Ukraine has a rich footballing pedigree – 16 Supreme Soviet League titles, the European Cup-winners Cup for Kiev Dynamo and European Footballer of the Year awards for Oleg Blokhlin and Igor Belanov – the defection of players of the calibre of Andrei Kanchelskis, Sergei Yuran and Victor Onopko to Russia has all but destroyed any hopes of qualifying for the Euro '96 finals. The UFF's ban on the transfer of national team players helped stem the exodus abroad and national coach Josef Szabo, the fourth in three seasons, is relying on a mix of home-based talent – Victor Leonenko, Dmitri Mikhaylenko, Sergei Konovalov and Oleg Luzhnyi – and established stars such as Mikhailichenko, Kuznetzov, Protasov, Zavarov and Litovchenko. Kiev Dynamo continue to dominate the domestic league, easing their cash worries by the sale of players abroad and the signing of the brightest talent the rest of Ukraine has to offer. Kiev recently signed a quartet of Ukraine internationals, including striker Sergei Konovalov, from Dnepr.

KAZAKHSTAN
Kazakhstan Football Association
44 Abat Street
480072 Almaty
Tel 3272-674474/670464
Fax 3271-671885/670464
Stadium Central, Almaty (30,000)
FIFA world ranking 153
AFC ranking 29
Population 17,000,000
Languages Kazak, Russian
Champions Elimay (1994)
The professional game in Kazakhstan is dogged by financial problems caused by low attendances and high government taxes. The leading teams rarely attract more than 5,000 at the gate, while 45% of all income from commercial activities, including sponsorship, is taken away in taxes. The 16-team First Division was won last season by Elimay from Semipalatinsk. Kairat (meaning power or energy), from Almaty, played in the Supreme Soviet League for 24 years and were twice winners of the International Railway Cup, a competition for railway-based clubs such as Moscow Lokomotiv.

KYRGYZSTAN
Togolok Moldo Street 17
720033 Bishkek
Tel 331-2-225492
Fax 331-2-267004
FIFA world ranking 166
AFC ranking 33
Population 4,500,000
Languages Kirgys, Russian
Champions Kant-Oil
Kant-Oil won the third national championship in Kyrgystan because they had the one thing other teams did not have – money. Strong financial support from sponsors and club president Turgunbek Kalmurzayev helped Kant-Oil to a three-point lead over second-placed Semetei. The champions now carry the torch into the Asian Club Championship, while Ak-Maral will compete for Kyrgyzstan in next season's Asian Cup-winners Cup.

TAJIKISTAN
Football Federation of the Republic of Tajikistan
Avenue Radaki 44
P/O 26
734025 Dushanbe
Tel 3772-212363/211874/211824
Fax 3772-230996/212447
FIFA world ranking 155
AFC ranking 30
Population 5,500,000
Languages Tajik, Russian
The civil war between the government and rebel forces based over the border in Afghanistan has prevented any competitive football taking place since independence.

TURKMENISTAN
15-A Chekhov Street
744001 Ashgabat
Fax 8-3632 244667
FIFA world ranking 113
AFC ranking 20
Population 3,808,000
Languages Turkmen, Russian
Champions Kopetdage
The national teams heroics at the 1994 Asian Games in Hiroshima – they reached the quarter-finals – were overshadowed by Uzbekistan's gold medal-winning performance. Players from champions Kopetdage of Ashkhabad dominate the national team. Turan compete for Turkmenistan in next season's Asian Cup-winners Cup.

UZBEKISTAN
Uzbekistan Football Federation
Massive Almazar,
Furkat Street 15/1
700003 Tashkent
Tel 3712-454948
Fax 3712-443183
Stadium Pakhtakor, Tashkent
FIFA world ranking 82
AFC ranking 11
Population 21,206,000
Languages Uzbek, Russian
Champions Neftchi
Ukbekistan's stunning debut at the 1994 Asian Games – they arrived with no form and left with the gold medal after beating China 4-2 in the final – was followed by Neftchi's appearance in last season's Asian Club Championship semi-finals, when the Uzbek champions went out on penalties to the eventual winners Thai Farmers Bank. They provided six of the Asian Games squad. Another five of the gold-medal-winning squad came from Pakhtakor, from Tashkent, who were known as the powerhouse of Uzbek football in the days of the Soviet Supreme League. The star of the Asian Games was Uzbekistan's centre-forward Igor Shkvyrin, now playing for Pahang in Malaysia after two years in Israel. His striking partner in the national side, Azamat Abduraimov, is now back in Uzbekistan after a spell with Pahang. The national team's only other foreign-based player is midfielder Mirzhalol Kosymov, who plays for Spartak Vladikavkaz in Russia. National coach at the Asian Games, Rustam Akramov, is now working for the India Football Federation.

Brazil

FIFA's flops

SEVERAL years ago, Tele Santana accused his fellow Brazilian managers of sending players into games under strict instructions to stop their opponents with fouls, waste as much time as they could, and, if possible, kick the opposition's best players off the pitch.

Here we are now in 1995, a supposedly enlightened era in which FIFA have clamped down on foul play and talent has been allowed to thrive. But in Brazil, FIFA's new regulations have been roundly ignored.

Most matches here are made unwatchable by the endless succession of cynical, premeditated fouls and liberal use of time-wasting tactics. Almost every time a player attempts to dribble past an opponent, he is brought down by a lunging challenge and the referee usually does nothing more than award a free-kick.

The failings of referees and authorities have given the hatchet men *carte blanche* to perform their repertoire of scissor tackles, lunging two-footed challenges and cynical trips from behind. The players with any talent tend to end up on the treatment table.

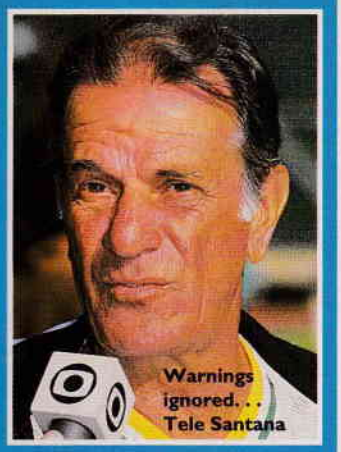
Guarani striker Amoroso, joint top scorer in last year's Brazilian championship, has just been put out of action for six months. He took a vicious battering from Ferroviaria defenders in a Sao Paulo championship match and was carried off before half-time with a recurrence of the knee injury that had kept him out for two months.

This time he will need an operation. No Ferroviaria defender was sent off and all are still at large, no doubt ready for other forwards.

"I left the field on a stretcher crying with pain while those who kicked me from behind stayed on the pitch until the end," Amoroso said. "That isn't football."

To get rid of Amoroso, Ferroviaria employed a tactic commonly used by Brazilian defences. Instead of giving one man the job of kicking him all the time, defenders took it in turns to do it and the already small risk of the same player being booked twice for fouling Amoroso was reduced still further.

Referees take the flak for being too lenient, which they are, but in reality there is often little they can do.


Warnings ignored. . . Tele Santana

Yellow cards rarely deter offenders; they just carry on and if they get sent off, their team-mates surround the referee to launch boisterous protests.

Directors then mouth off to the media about how the referee had been biased against their team, thus diverting attention from the fact that their defender got no more than what he deserved.

If a referee does carry out the rules to the letter, the game runs a serious risk of not reaching its climax and if that happens, he – not the players or the managers – will get the blame.

Claudio Cerdeira sent off five players in a recent Flamengo-Botafogo derby but should have dismissed double that number. Flamengo's Savio lasted just five minutes, during which Botafogo's Wilson hit him with two crunching tackles from behind.

Cerdeira, as tradition demands, was made the scapegoat, yet the behaviour of Flamengo manager Wanderley Luxemburgo – a pretender to the throne of national coach Mario Zagalo – was deplorable.

Luxemburgo had spent most of the preceding week bad-mouthing Cerdeira and was rightly banned from the bench during the game for insulting the official, this time to his face. "He called me mentally retarded, mad and dishonest," said Cerdeira.

One of the problems is the disciplinary system. Two of the Botafogo players sent off against Flamengo were not even given a one-match suspension.

Nobody even thought about sanctioning the unruly Luxemburgo.

BRIAN HOMEWOOD

'FIFA's new regulations have been roundly ignored . . . Players with talent end up on the treatment table'

Uruguay

Debts crisis continues

A LAW in Uruguay allows clubs to field only players with paid-up contracts in a professional league. When the time came to start the season, 12 First Division clubs owed their players over $1million and Nacional, one of the country's two big clubs, owed almost half that amount.

Penarol, the other one, were the only club with no debts to players.

The start of the Uruguayan season was postponed, as explained last month, because nearly all the clubs owed money to players.

Then, after two rounds of matches, the Uruguayan national team went on a two-week tour, giving the UFA another excuse to suspend the championship. What happens next remains to be seen.

Defending champions Penarol won their first two games and led River Plate and Wanderers by two points but they will forfeit two points at the end of the 12-match opening championship - a legacy of last year's ill-fated Penarol-Nacional derby when a fan was killed.

Nacional, meanwhile, fixed up home and away friendlies with Olimpia of Paraguay, winning 5-0 at home, losing 2-1 in Asuncion. The match was suspended for a time when players of both teams joined in a free-for-all.

ERIC WEIL

Peru

Cueto comeback

CESAR CUETO, one of Peru's greatest footballers, has announced that he intends to start playing again at the age of 38.

Cueto, who had retired and taken a coaching job with Alianza Lima, where he made his name, is known as 'the poet of the left foot', and played in the 1978 and 1982 World Cups.

Ivan Brzic, Alianza's manager, refused to comment on Cueto's decision, saying that he needed "time to think it over".

Marquinho, Alianza's Brazilian playmaker, was still on the injury list as the team prepared for the next round of the Libertadores Cup, while defender Carlos Enrique was thrown out of the club after making less than flattering remarks about Brzic's mother.

The problems did nothing to prevent Alianza from achieving their best result so far this season, a 6-0 victory against Union Minas. The win kept the club firmly in second place and was an important morale-booster before meeting Millonarios of Colombia in the Libertadores Cup.

Univesitario, Alianza's arch-rivals, stormed into an early lead, confounding critics who predicted that the club would struggle this term. 'U' have been galvanised by the return of coach Sergio Markarian, who led the club to the title in 1992.

PETER HUDSON

Back in business? Cesar Cueto

Colombia

Keeper grabs the glory

WE ARE getting used to South and Central American goalkeepers scoring goals – Mexico's Campos, Colombia's Higuita, Paraguay's Chilavert in Argentina.

Campos does it when playing as a striker, Higuita from penalties and Chilavert even from free-kicks. But Miguel Calero did the ultimate.

Calero, playing for Deportivo Cali in the Colombian championship, rushed out of goal in the 88th minute to intercept a break-away by rivals Pereira, dribbled past an oncoming forward and went on to score the winning goal.

The 2-1 victory kept Deportivo a point ahead of Nacional in the League. Teams are playing two games a week to finish before Copa America in July.

Champions Millonarios, with their minds on the Libertadores Cup and unable to play full-strength teams three times a week, are near the bottom of the table.

Higuita, in form for Nacional, has been recalled to the national squad for the Copa America in Uruguay.

ERIC WEIL

Pan-American Games

Spot-kick special

Final delight . . .the Argentinians celebrate victory over Mexico

ARGENTINA were the hottest favourites ever in this year's Pan-American Games, played in their own country at Mar del Plata.

Olympic qualifying rules existed – all but three players had to be under 23 – but with Daniel Passarella having picked a new and young squad when he took over as coach last year, Argentina could use virtually their full national team, except for players based in Europe, who were not going to be called up for this competition anyway.

Brazil, traditionally strong candidates, could bring only a scratch side assembled at the last moment.

While national team coach Mario Zegalo feels that Brazil currently have the best crop of young players for a long time, Pan-Am coach Antonio Maria Pupo Gimines had only four days to assemble a squad. State championships were in progress and clubs were reluctant to let their best players go.

He could not get the best juniors either, because they were preparing for the Under-20 World Championship. Finally he had to get players mostly from the Sao Paulo junior tournament, with winners Corinthians, where he coaches, forming the backbone.

Play began in three groups of four teams, with the top two of each and the best two third-placed teams going into the quarter-finals. The dead wood was soon eliminated – the United States (winners of the last tournament, but fielding an enthusiastic but ordinary amateur team this time), Bermuda and Trinidad & Tobago all finishing bottom of their respective groups without points.

Ground conditions were a great leveller. By rights FIFA should not have allowed the use of Mar del Plata's former World Cup stadium, which was in atrocious condition.

Instead of being prepared during the long hot summer – when the climate is never at its best for grass – it was used for a summer tournament, rugby sevens and even a rock concert. As a result there was no outstanding soccer.

Honduras were the first to hit the headlines when they knocked out Brazil on penalties, 8-7, after a 0-0 draw, with goalkeeper Flores saving four shots and scoring the decider.

Honduras also held Argentina 2-2 and played the more entertaining soccer. Both Argentina's goals came from penalties.

In the semi-final they clashed with Argentina again and were unlucky to lose 3-2 after having two men sent off. Then they went out meekly against Colombia (3-0) in the third-place play-off. They lacked so many players due to injuries and suspensions they had to field reserve keeper, Medina, as an outfield player.

The Mexico-Colombia semi-final contained the ugliest incident, when Colombia's Arley Betancourt reacted violently after being sent off and hit Costa Rican referee Ronald Gutierrez in the face.

The Pan-Am committee suspended him for a year – an unusually light sentence – but FIFA may increase the sanction.

Two goals by Salvador gave Mexico victory after they had fallen behind.

The final was a poor game with no goals, and the gold medal went to Argentina in a shoot-out, 5-4. Mexico were using their 'reducing space' tactics and Argentina had no answer.

Argentina – who had beaten Bulgaria 4-1 with the same team in a full international just before the Games – did not give a good account of themselves. They never really got to grips with the surface and their rhythm suffered as a result.

They often tried to do things too fast and failed to achieve what they had promised. Fortunately 18-year-old midfielder Marcelo Gallardo kept cool among all the hustle and bustle and tremendous pressure from home fans.

He finished as the tournament's leading scorer with six goals – five penalties during regulation play and a well-taken free-kick – which virtually pulled Argentina into the final.

BRIAN HOMEWOOD

MEN IN THE NEWS

Diego keeps keys clicking

Coach on a collision course . . . Maradona with the Racing players

THE Diego Maradona saga continues to keep fans on tenterhooks and journalists at their keyboards.

Now coaching Racing Club of Buenos Aires– when he feels like it – Diego continues to be in the news when he turns up for training sessions and matches . . . and when he does not.

In the derby against Independiente he could not catch the linesman's attention when he wanted to send an injured player back on, so threw water at him. This brought him a 16-match ban from the touchline, or payment of £2,200.

The fine was immediately paid – some say out of his own pocket – and he was back on the touchline the following Sunday.

In the ongoing trial for shooting at journalists with an airgun last year, Maradona offered to do community work instead of going to jail but the prosecution refused to accept this and insisted on a sentence which could be as long as four years. The verdict is expected in the next few weeks.

Diego then failed to turn up at training sessions for a week and nobody knew where he was. There was conjecture he had been interned for drug abuse but finally he was located in a Buenos Aires hotel. Journalists descended in their dozens but he left quietly at night by a back door and went home before declaring that he had had a row with his wife.

He still insists on forming a worldwide players union. "Playing World Cup games in the midday heat while Havelange is having pizza and champagne in the officials' box will have to stop," he said recently, continuing to furnish us with material for a long-running soap opera.

- **EDMUNDO**, Brazil's troublesome striker playing for Palmeiras, is another star seldom out of the news. Following his team's 1-0 defeat by Nacional in Quito in the Libertadores Cup, he was jostled by a cameraman and was filmed lashing out.

The camera equipment was smashed, the television station made a complaint and a judicial order stopped Edmundo from leaving the country. So he was confined to his hotel for four days until the case was settled and Palmeiras had paid £6,500.

"I tripped over the cable and the camera hit me as it fell," he said.

- **ANGEL CLEMENTE ROJAS**, the former Argentinian international and Boca Juniors striker who fell on hard times after he retired, has been engaged by former team-mate Silvio Marzolini, now the Boca coach, to train junior teams.
- **FRANCISCO MATURANA** ,Colombia's coach at last year's World Cup, is now Ecuador's national coach on a contract which runs until the end of qualifying games for the 1998 World Cup.

Ecuador had been without a coach since Yugoslav Dusan Drascovic left at the end of 1993.

- **CESAR MENOTTI**, Argentina's national coach from 1974 to 1982, has retired to run for Governor of his province (Santa Fe) at the general elections.
- **IN PARAGUAY**, the national championship preliminary rounds are in progress (in five groups) without the country's oldest and most famous club, Olimpia. They preferred to concentrate on the Libertadores Cup and other fixtures, then changed their mind, but too late to enter.
- **IN VENEZUELA**, the top three of each of two groups qualified for a final round – Mineros de Guyana, Caracas FC and Trujillanos from Group A and Minerven, Maritimo and Tachira from Group B. Maritimo had to pass a stadium inspection, with Lara to replace them if necessary.

ERIC WEIL

See Rijkaard's last stand in Amsterdam

AJAX v FC TWENTE

(Sunday May 28 - Monday May 29 1995)

It will be a case of 'Franks for the memory' on the last day of the Dutch season as Frank Rijkaard plays his last professional game for Ajax in the Dutch League. The Champions Cup finalists, with stars like Rijkaard, Kanu, Patrick Kluivert and Jari Litmanen, have set Europe alight this season. Travel by luxury coach to Amsterdam to see the current League leaders finish the season in style at home to Twente Enschede.

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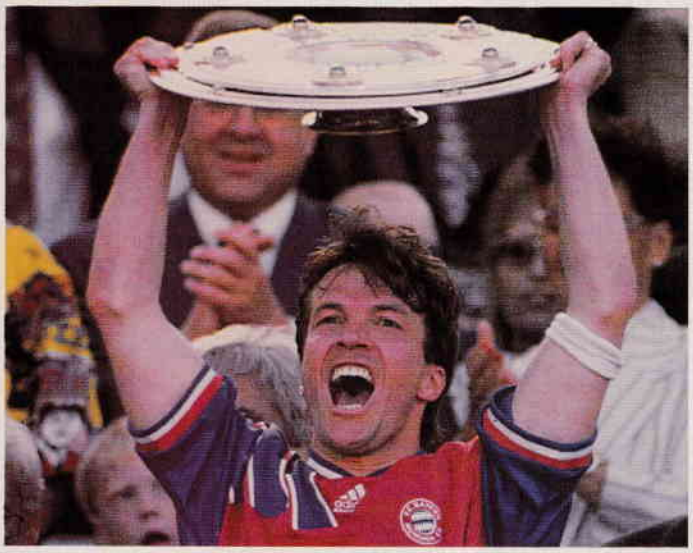

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(Saturday 17 - Monday 19 June 1995)

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Ghana go through

In the latest round of Nations Cup qualifiers Ghana's Black Stars became the first to qualify for South Africa in 1996 while Sierra Leone's Mohamed Kallon became the youngest ever scorer of an international goal. Mark Gleeson reports

GHANA are the first team, apart from the South African hosts and holders Nigeria, to qualify for next year's African Nations Cup finals.

The Black Stars would have liked to secure their place in the 16-team tournament next January and February in better style than they did at home to Niger. After winning 5-1 away earlier in the qualifiers, they could manage only a 1-0 win at Accra, with Leeds United's Anthony Yeboah scoring the winner.

For 30-year-old Yeboh it was his first game for his country since the Ghanaian debacle at the last Nations Cup finals in Tunisia, when he fell out with Abedi Pele and played well below his capabilities.

Ghana are set to be joined in the finals by Sierra Leone, surprising qualifiers for the last Nations Cup finals and continuing their rapid rise.

Sierra Leone need only two points from their last two matches to go through with Ghana, after beating Congo 2-0 in Brazzaville.

The first goal was scored by teenager Mohamed Kallon – at 15 years, six months and 18 days the youngest scorer in international football yet – and the second by substitute Mohamed Mansaray for a win which leaves the group basically wrapped up.

In the other sections, though, things are not as simple. Group One is still a four-team race with Zaire and Malawi looking good on paper, Zimbabwe fading away and Cameroon barely hanging on.

Zimbabwe, who have gone extremely close to qualifying for the last three Nations Cup finals but have yet to make it, lost vital ground when Malawi drew 1-1 in Harare.

The match was played under a cloud of player discontent which led to the sacking of coach Reinhard Fabisch on the eve of the game.

On song in the Nations Cup . . . Ghana's Yeboah and Zaire's Ndinga (right)

Fabisch was accused by the Zimbabwean Football Association of instigating demands for 40 per cent of the match takings to be shared among the players - a perennial problem with the cash-strapped southern Africans.

Zimbabwe still top the group but have to play Zaire and Cameroon away in their final two matches - and defeats in all likelihood will again deny them a place in the finals.

Zaire are second after coming from behind to beat Cameroon at the new Kamonyola stadium in Kinshasa, with late goals from Portuguese-based Mbote Ndinga (Vitoria Guimaraes) and Kona Ngole of Genclerbirligi (Turkey).

The Liberians ended Tunisia's unbeaten run with a 1-0 win in Monrovia, but it was Senegal who stole the limelight with a 5-1 thrashing of Togo, after the minnows had taken a fifth-minute lead.

Stand-in captain Moussa Ndaw, replacing Souleymane Sane, inspired the comeback with two goals, and Mamadou Diallo also scored twice. Both stood aside in the final minute to allow Amara Traore to score the fifth from the penalty spot.

The win puts the Lions back into the picture and they will need to get a point in Tunisia in their next match to improve their odds.

Egypt's 2-1 away win over Tanzania virtually assures them a berth and they are likely to be joined from group four by Algeria, who have seemingly overcome their shaky start to the campaign.

Tanzania were in the frame until their home defeat but now trail in fourth place, as Uganda make a last-ditch effort to edge Algeria out of second. A goalless draw in Ethiopia probably pleased the Ugandans but their cause would have been much better served with a win.

Group Five's outcome is a formality with only pedantic mathematics standings between Gabon and Zambia, but it's a lot different in Group Six, as has been the case throughout the qualifiers.

Mozambique are the latest to head the standings after winning 3-0 in Botswana, including two goals

AFRICAN CLUB CUPS

Kaloum Stars cause a suprise

AFRICA SPORTS of Ivory Coast, one of the continent's richest clubs, were surprisingly eliminated from the first round of this year's African club competitions.

The Ivorians, who have reached two of the last three African Cup-winners Cup finals, were bundled out by unfancied Kaloum Stars of neighbouring Guinea in the first round of the CAF Cup.

Clubs from Ivory Coast and Ghana were banned from playing in any of the African club competitions last year, but had the sanction lifted in time to compete in the 1995 edition.

Africa Sports, despite the year's break, were one of the favourites in the CAF Cup and that position looked justified when they travelled to Conakry for the first leg and beat Kaloum Stars 1-0, then went 2-1 up in the return match. But the Stars scored three times to take the tie on the away goals rule.

There was also a remarkable recovery for Congo's Inter Sport, who lost 2-0 at home to Petrosport of Gabon, only to win by the same score in the return and take the game on penalties.

The leading contenders in the CAF Cup come into contention only in the second round, with holders Bendel Insurance of Nigeria, compatriots Shooting Stars and up-and-coming Agaza Lome of Togo having byes in the first round.

In the Champions Cup, holders Esperance eased past Burkina Faso's Etoile Filante, as they did at the same stage of the competition last year.

But they will not find it particularly easy this time. Some of the other contenders, such as ASEC Abidjan, Ismailia of Egypt, Goldfields (Ghana), BCC Lions of Nigeria and South Africa's Orlando Pirates, all won and look likely to press Esperance hard.

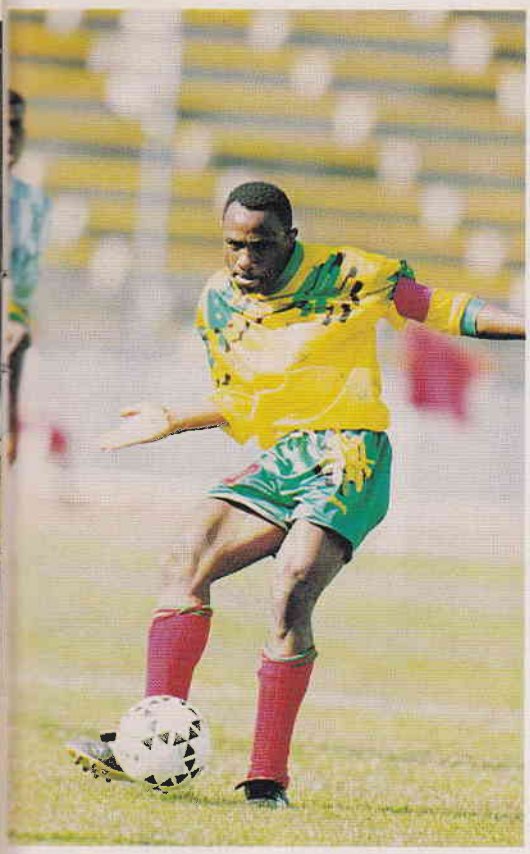
The Cup-winners Cup is equally competitive, as Zaire's Daring Club Motema Pembe attempt to hold their title.

They got a bye, but have to play unpredictable Vital 'O of Burundi in the second round. Vital 'O beat Mangasport of Gabon 3-2 on aggregate at the first round.

In spite of the ethnic strife in the country, this has been a remarkable year for Burundian soccer, with their qualification for the World Under-20 Championships and their progress in the Olympic Games qualifiers.

Cameroonian Second Division club Olympic Mvolye went through to the second round after hammering Independiente Tomba of Angola 5-1 on aggregate.

MARK GLEESON



from Sporting Lisbon's Chiquinho Conde. Angola trail only on goal difference after thrashing Guinea by the same scoreline in Luanda, and a 2-0 win for Mali (goals from Modibo Sidibe and Abdoul Karim Mangoussaba) over Namibia puts them just a point behind.

The next month will provide a clearer picture of the potential qualifiers with another round of matches, the most intriguing of which will be the Group Seven clash between Ivory Coast and Morocco in Abidjan.

Defeat for either side will mean an African giant staying at home for next year's Nations Cup finals.

Sacked . . . ex-Zimbabwe coach Reinhard Fabisch

CENTRAL AFRICA

ANGOLA

PROVINCIAL team Sol Angola from southern coastal city Namibie are the early leaders in the championship from Primiero Agosto. Progresso and AS Aviacao.

CAMEROON

PREVOYANCE YAOUNDE are League leaders with a three-point lead over Racing Baffousam and Canon Yaounde. Defending champions Aigles Nkongsamba are fourth, four points off the leaders after 10 matches.

EAST AFRICA

RWANDA

UGANDAN-BORN coach David Otiti has been entrusted with reviving Rwanda's national soccer team when the civil war ends. Otiti was coach of Uganda's SC Villa, whom he had just joined after taking Express to the Ugandan championship in 1994. He previously coached in Kenya and Somalia.

UGANDA

INTERNATIONAL striker Jackson Mayanja narrowly escaped death when robbers broke into his house in Mukono-Lweza, shooting his elder brother John dead. Jackson was in the house at the time but not injured. The pair had just returned from the funeral of a third brother, Balabuzi Mayanja. Express FC defender George Sscmwogerere has been named Footballer of the Year. SC Villa are the early leaders with 17 points, two more than defending champions Express and UEB. Ibrahim Kitizo of UEB is leading scorer with six.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

NAMIBIA

CIVICS remain the only unbeaten team in the League with 21 points from their first nine games. Coastal club Blue Waters, from Walvis Bay, are three points behind.

WEST AFRICA

GAMBIA

NATIONAL coach Alhaji Sylla resigned ahead of the country's Nations Cup qualifier with Congo, after differences with federation officials.

GHANA

DEFENDING champions Goldfields have opened up a three-point lead on the nearest opposition. After 14 matches, the team have 25 points, three more than second-placed Dawu Youngsters and Real Tamale United.

Goldfields beat Asante Kotoko 1-0 with a late goal by Kofi Debrah to ensure their lead. The previous week Goldfields had beaten the country's other big-name team, Hearts of Oak, 1-0, with Debrah again the scorer.

Former national team coach CK Gyamfi has taken over as technical director at Goldfields, who are through to the second round of the African Champions Cup after thrashing Liberia's NPA Anchors 8-1 on aggregate in the first round.

NIGERIA

A PROFESSIONAL Premier League may start next year with 12 teams, but these will be selected not from the year-end finishers in this season's First Division but on a financial criteria. An 18-team First Division would serve as the feeder to the Premier Division, with a 20-team Second.

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

THREE footballers from Iraq have signed for Algerian clubs in the first move of its kind in the Arab world.

Winger Saad Khais, who played in all of Iraq's World Cup qualifying matches for the 1994 finals, is now at CA Batna with compatriot Haidor Charrar, and Ali Saghir is playing for champions US Chaouia.

JS Kabylie are four points clear at the top of the table after 22 matches.

EGYPT

EGYPT'S 1990 World Cup striker, Hossam Hassan, was at the centre of a brawl, involving three Lebanese players, in a friendly game in Beirut.

The Egypt team, visiting Lebanon for the first time, scheduled the encounter as a warm-up for an African Nations Cup game against Sudan in Alexandria, but it turned sour after Trinidad international David Nakhid clinched a superb free-kick equaliser for the home side five minutes before the final whistle.

Hossam Hassan then displayed his karate and kick-boxing skills against local players, in front of a packed stadium, including the Egyptian Ambassador to Beirut. The game was interrupted for 23 minutes, and Hassan was sent off.

MOHAMMED CHBARO

● OLYMPIC ALEXANDRIA'S Ahmed Abdou El Kass has been voted Footballer of the Year.

Alive and kicking . . . Egypt's Hassan attacks a Lebanese fan

MOROCCO

ONLY two points separate Wydad Casablanca and Royal Amed Forces in the battle for the title. Both are former African champions.

TUNISIA

CLUB AFRICAIN, with a one-point lead, Etoile Sahel and defending champions Esperance are all involved in the battle at the top. In the Cup, Esperance, Olympique Beja, ES Zarzis and CS Sfaxien have made it to the semi-finals. Three of the four quarter-final ties were decided on penalties.

MARK GLEESON

Kamo's code

JAPAN's national team made a fresh start in April when the new, 31-member squad gathered for their first training camp in Iwata.

Manager Shu Kamo, who took over in December, had little time to prepare for the Intercontinental Cup, in which Japan lost badly, and the AFC Marlboro Dynasty Cup, which Japan won.

The squad still lack Kazuyoshi Miura, absent with Genoa, and Japan's Olympic players, but Kamo believes that he now has the players he will use for the matches against England, Brazil and Sweden in the Umbro Cup this month.

Shu Kamo spoke to Mike Plastow about the national side's prospects.

WORLD SOCCER: What does a place in an international challenge tournament in England mean for Japan?

SHU KAMO: It is a great honour to play England at Wembley. The biggest global tournament that Japan has played in so far is the Mexico Olympics in 1968. I don't know how the ordinary Japanese people feel about it, but that is the biggest as far as those involved in football are concerned.

We invite strong foreign teams to Japan but they don't try their very best. This time, though, we'll all try. And these are the number one and number three teams in the world, plus England. They are great opponents, and to play at Wembley is very special for us.

Japan won the Asian Cup in 1992, and retained the Dynasty Cup in February, but rather lost their way in between. Is Japan ready for such a high-profile tournament?

It would have been nice to build towards it in stages, if there was more time. But there isn't. I'm looking at all of the teams, discussing things with the managers, and getting the necessary practice in at two training camps.

England will be strong. That is our first game, and we are pretty nervous already. Football is not the kind of sport where you can suddenly get much better all at once. But I want us to prepare as well as possible, and to play our best.

What kind of game do you hope to play in England?

Basically, the national team must achieve results. I believe that results are more important that the content. But after saying that, I like my football to have colour. What that means is not to tighten our defence negatively, but to attack. Even if the opponent happens to be England, and the ground is Wembley, instead of tightening up I want to attack as much as possible.

Do you have the players you need?

We have 31 players for now. I will continue to look at others in the J.League before making my final choice of 20. I cannot say about those I didn't choose. There were more than 200! We have had several injuries, and there will probably be more. I don't expect that all 31 will stay fit. But Kazu is the only player that I want who I haven't called up yet.

That said, this year is a difficult time for us. In Asia, especially, the two overriding goals are the World Cup and the Olympic Games. Right now, every country is putting a lot of effort into building its Olympic team. In Japan, we have separated our full national and Olympic teams completely. The Olympics take top priority, so the Japan FA send all players of that age to the Olympic team. I cannot work with all of the players that I'd most like to have. But we'll do our best. That is all we can do.

Ruy Ramos, who is 38, is on your list. Will he play at Wembley?

Ramos is the best playmaker in Japan. The job is always done by foreigners in the J.League but the national team needs a player like him. Doubts do remain about his physical condition, but I'll keep him as a candidate to the last.

J.League players face a 52-game league schedule this year. Do they get too much football?

No. I was a J.League manager until recently, and I am one of the people who has been working for the J.League's success. I don't think that there is any way, apart from the J.League, for Japanese football to progress. That is true even if the national team's a big short of time. We all have to cooperate for the J.League's success.

Japan's Under-20 and Under-16 teams have qualified for this year's FIFA World championships. The women's team have qualified for the World Cup. Are the good effects of the J.League already appearing at the national team level?

Yes, little by little. I think that the effects are there. Hans Ooft's national team has won the Asian Cup. We could never win in Asia before. We were unlucky to lose at the last gasp in the World Cup qualifiers. But we are competing now on equal terms with opponents that we couldn't play against on equal terms before.

Gradual change . . . national boss Shu Kamo

And this is especially true at the youth level . .

Yes. The point which always made it hardest to compare Japanese football and the football of other countries was the school system. In the past, almost all Under-18 national youth team members went on to university. In countries like South Korea, the universities have proper coaches and 20-member squads. But in Japan, you generally got clubs of a hundred and formal practice only at weekends.

But thanks to the J.League, many players now enter J.League clubs straight out of senior high school at the age of 18. And they are the players who have won in the Asian youth tournaments.

Will the full national team be as strong this summer as Ooft's team was at the 1992 Asian Cup?

That was over two years ago. I can't compare. New players have come in. Others have got older. But I am aiming to build a better team than that.

What should the English fans watch out for?

On the individual level, compared with the English players, I'd say that ours don't understand football all that well. So, I want the fans to watch our team play. We don't have anything to teach, but I want them to see that we can play, too.

And how do you see Japan's prospects for 1998? Will you still be at the helm?

I'd say that my chances are about 50-50. But as for the team, looking towards 1998, I want to introduce young players now, so that whoever does the job won't have special problems.

Until this summer, the Olympic team takes priority, so we cannot play with our best team yet. But we have no chance in 1998 if we don't introduce young players. I am thinking about it carefully.

In Japan, as things are now, the change cannot be made all at once. It must be done gradually.

New faces for England

Captain's example . . . Tetsuji Hashiratani

KAZUYOSHI MIURA of Genoa is expected to be the key man in Shu Kamo's squad for the trip to England.

Other core members from Hans Ooft's team remain: goalkeeper Shigetatsu Matsunaga; captain Tetsuji Hashiratani and Masami Ihara in central defence; and Ruy Ramos, Hajime Moriyasu and Tsuyoshi Kitazawa in midfield.

Striker Masashi Nakayama also is back after being out with injury for a year, and is looking good alongside Salvatore Schillaci at his club side, Jubilo Iwata.

But the main interest is in young players who will be needed to challenge for a place in France in 1998.

Hiroshige Yanagimoto of Sanfrecce Hiroshima, the success story of the AFC Marlboro Dynasty Cup at right-back, is automatically in the squad. So is steady defensive midfielder Motohiro Yamaguchi of Yokohama Flugels, and Toshiya Fujita of Jubilo Iwata has kept his place after a firm performance in central midfield at the Dynasty Cup in Hong Kong.

But 21-year-old Masakiyo Maezono, Japan's most imaginative player, is out. He is indispensable for the Olympic qualifiers, which clash with the English tournament.

The new faces in the squad include a lot of players with promise, such as 22-year-old Yokohama Flugels keeper Atsuhiko Mori, the J.League's youngest regular keeper. He surely will be the national team regular in the future.

At left-back, there are three possible new faces: Katsuo Kanda of Cerezo Osaka, Masaharu Suzuki of Yokohama Marinos and Naoki Soma of Kashima Antlers.

Other new defenders are tall stopper Ippei Watanabe of Yokohama Flugels and swift right-back Kentaro Sawada of Kashiwa Reysol.

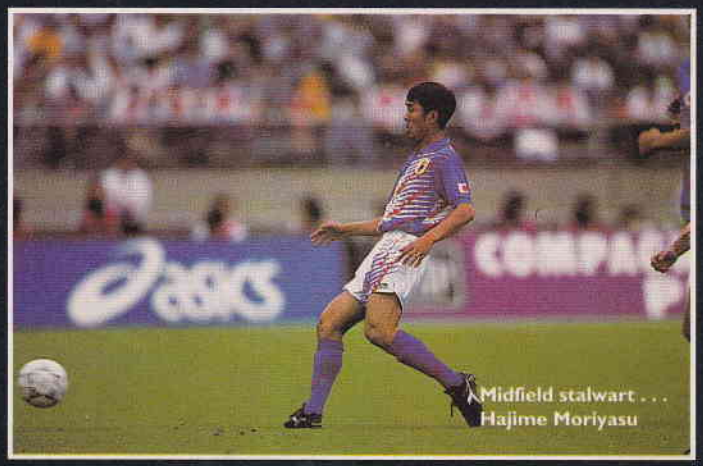
The shape of Japan's future midfield is coming into view. Two new defensive midfielders have been added, Yasuto Honda of Kashima Antlers, who harries opponents non-stop, and Kazuaki Tasaka of Bellmare Hiratsuka, last year's New Player of the Year.

On the left, there is another player with fine ball skill and rich imagination, young Hiroshi Nanmi of Jubilo Iwata. Nozomu Kato of Kashiwa Reysol is a great asset for supporting the attack, a role that he performs for Careca and Muller at his club.

Hisashi Kurosaki of Kashima Antlers will be hoping to hang on to his position as centre-forward, but faces a strong challenge not only from Nakayama but also from Koji Noguchi of Bellmare Hiratsuka.

Little Kiroaki Morishima of Cerezo Osaka, in the squad for the first time, is a fast and difficult player to handle.

MIKE PLASTOW & MICHI ISHIJIMA



Midfield stalwart . . . Hajime Moriyasu

Star man . . . Kuzu Miura

JAPAN NATIONAL SQUAD
(Iwata Camp, April 17-19, 1995)

Player	Club	Age
Goaleepers		
Shigetatsu Matsunaga	Yokohama Marinos	32
Nobuyuki Kojima	Bellmare Hiratsuka	29
Kazuya Maekawa	Sanfrecce Hiroshima	27
Atsuhiko Mori	Yokohama Flugels	22
Defenders		
Tetsuji Hashiratanai	Verdy Kawasaki	30
Katsuo Kanda	Cerezo Osaka	28
Masami Ihara	Yokohama Marinos	27
Norio Omura	Yokohama Marinos	26
Ippei Watanabe	Yokohama Flugels	26
Kentaro Sawada	Kashiwa Reysol	24
Masaharu Suzuki	Yokohama Marinos	24
Tadashi Nakamura	Verdy Kawasaki	23
Naoki Soma	Kashima Antlers	23
Aikra Narahashi	Bellmare Hiratsuka	23
Hiroshige Yanagimoto	Sanfrecce Hiroshima	22
Midfielders		
Ruy Ramos	Verdy Kawasaki	38
Masahiro Fukuda	Urawa Red Diamonds	28
Tsuyoshi Kitazawa	Verdy Kawasaki	26
Hajime Moriyasu	Sanfrecce Hiroshima	26
Motohiro Yamaguchi	Yokohama Flugels	26
Yasuto Honda	Kashima Antlers	25
Nozomu Kato	Kashiwa Reysol	25
Kazuaki Tasaka	Bellmare Hiratsuka	23
Toshiya Fujita	Jubilo Iwata	23
Takahiro Yamada	Yokohama Marinos	22
Hiroshi Nanmi	Jubilo Iwata	22
Forwards		
Masashi Nakayama	Jubilo Iwata	27
Hisashi Kurosaki	Kashima Antlers	26
Koji Noguchi	Bellmare Hiratsuka	24
Toshihiro Yamaguchi	Gamba Osaka	23
Hiroaki Morishima	Cerezo Osaka	22

Moving to the global stage

JAPAN's national team are moving on to the global stage. First, Japan host Scotland and Ecuador in the Kirin Cup from May 21-28.

Then comes the International Challenge Tournament in England from June 3-11, with matches against England, Brazil and Sweden. Another game against Brazil, this time in Japan, has been pencilled in for August.

Less than three years have passed since the Japanese won their first major titles, the AFC Marlboro Dynasty Cup (Far East Asian Championship) and Asian Cup. Japan arrive after retaining the AFC Marlboro Dynasty Cup against South Korea in Hong Kong in February.

But while the past two years have contained remarkable success on the domestic scene, with the start of the J.League in 1993, the national team have rather lost their way.

Dutchman Hans Ooft, who led Japan to the Dynasty and Asian Cups, nearly repeated the trick in the World Cup qualifiers. Japan were 17 seconds of injury time away from qualifying in top place from Asia when an Iraqi equaliser knocked them from top to third and let South Korea through on goal difference.

Ooft stepped down to be replaced by Falcao, who selected an interesting young squad with plenty of talent but not much basic experience. The denouement came in the quarter-final of the Hiroshima Asian Games, when Japan lost 3-2 to a late penalty by South Korea. The tournament was won by Uzbekistan.

Falcao was dismissed and replaced by a Japanese manager, Shu Kamo, then boss of Yokohama Flugels in the J.League.

Kamo is Japan's most respected tactician. He started his career as a striker with Yanmar Diesel but switched to coaching after only three years, in 1967. He was manager of Nissan from 1964 to 1989, leading the club (now Yokohama Marinos) to the triple crown of Japan Soccer League, League Cup and Emperor's Cup in 1988-89.

Having reached the pinnacle, Kamo stepped down in favour of Brazilian World Cup star Oscar. Then he started over in 1991 at the club with the J.League's youngest average age, Yokohama Flugels.

They ended bottom of the table in the inaugural tournament, the J.League Yamazaki Nabisco Cup of 1992, but are now holders of the Asian Cup-winners Cup.

Kamo's start with the national team was inauspicious, with big defeats to Nigeria (3-0) and Argentina (5-1) in the Intercontinental Cup. Quick amends were made when Japan retained the AFC Marlboro Dynasty Cup in Hong Kong, beating South Korea on penalties in an exciting final.

But the Japanese would be still happier if the English tournament had happened two years ago.

Kamo's football is marked by compact play, tight zonal pressure and quick counter-attacks. The style may be overstretched by high-quality opposition, but Kamo is clear that he is building for the future.

This time around, the experience will count more than results.

MIKE PLASTOW & MICHI ISHIJIMA

ARAB CUP-WINNERS CUP

First title for Al Ahly

AL AHLY of Egypt staged and won the fifth Arab Cup-winners Cup for the first time in their history.

All the ingredients were there to make it a must for the Middle-East soccer enthusiasts: the cream of Arab clubs contesting the final, Al Ahly on one hand, Al Shabab of Saudi Arabia, with all their World Cup starlets, on the other, and 120,000 fans crammed Cairo International Stadium.

President Mubarak was among them, the game was screened live in 15 Arab countries, and the top Arabian referee, Ali Mohamed Bujsaim of the United Arab Emirates, was in charge. He controlled the third-place match at the last World Cup, between Sweden and Bulgaria.

This edition of the Cup, organised by the Union Arabe de Football Association, was definitely the most successful since its creation back in 1989, with 580,000 spectators attending the 15 matches throughout 10 days.

Eight clubs from Asia (5) and Africa (3) competed in the first round with the leading sides of each group progressing to the semi-finals.

Al Ahly, who topped Group 1, eliminated Olympique Casablanca, the winners of the last three tournaments, in what proved to be the most thrilling fixture of the tournament.

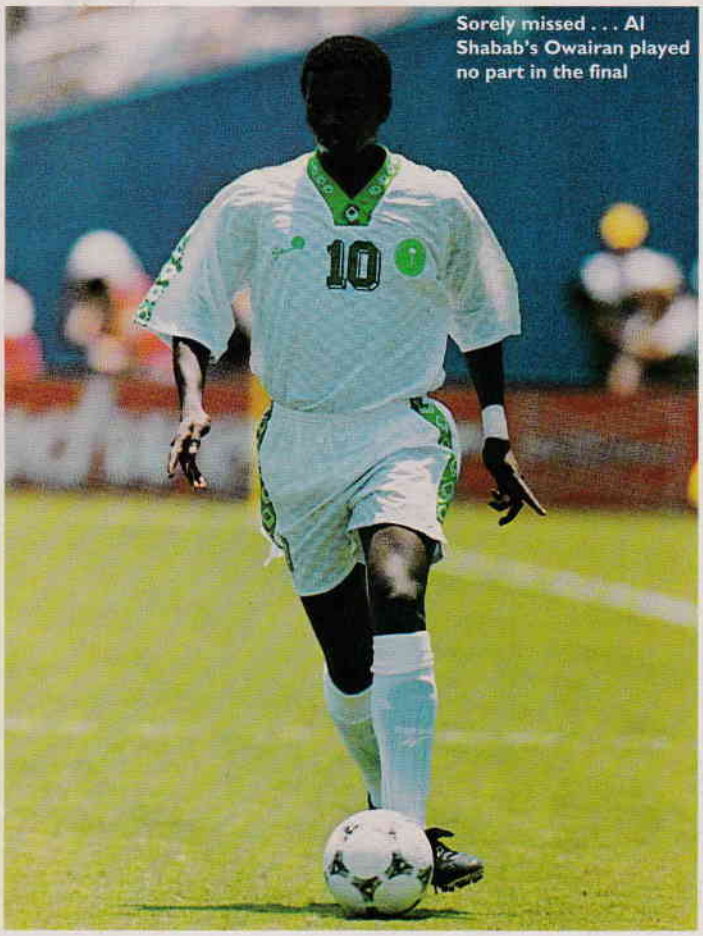
Four goals were scored in the first 21 minutes, with Hisham Hanafi scoring both Al Ahly goals from long range, and Jamal Al-Sallami and Toufiqu Balagha replying. Then Walid Salaheddin notched the 'golden goal', adopted for the first time in the event, in the 111th minute.

In the other semi-final, Al Shabab secured their final place thanks to a 2-0 victory over As Marsa of Tunisia. Ghana's Blade Koma and 1994 Saudi World Cup star Fuad Anwar Amin scored, one in each half.

In the final, Al Shabab badly missed the opportunism of Said Al-Owairan, who had been sent back to Riyadh after only one game, because of a dispute with team officials, and Hossam Hassan's goal proved decisive.

This was yet another trophy for Allan Harris, very popular now on the River Nile. His side are well *en route* to record another League title success, as well.

MOHAMED CHBARO



Sorely missed . . . Al Shabab's Owairan played no part in the final

1995 ARAB CUP-WINNERS CUP

Group 1

Al Ahly (Egy) 1 Faysali (Jor) 0
As Marsa (Tun) 1 Al Arabi (Qatar) 1
Al Ahly 2, AS Marsa 1
Al Arabi 1 Al Faysali 0
Al Ahly 3 Al Arabi 0
AS Marsa 5 Al Faysali 1

Group 2

Olympique Casablanca (Mor) 5 Shabab Rafah (Pal) 0
Al Shabab (SA) 1 Al Qadsia (Kuw) 0
Al Shabab 1 Olympique Casablanca 0
Al Qadsia 4 Shabab Rafah 0
Al Shabab 2 Shabab Rafah 0
Olympique Casablanca 4 Al Qadsia 2

Semi-Finals

Al Ahly 3 Olympique Casablanca 2
Al Shabab 2 As Marsa 0

Final

Al Ahly 1 Al Shabab 0

Year	Winners	Runners-Up
1989	Stade Tunisien (Tun)	Al Kuwait SC
1991	Oly. Casablanca (Mor)	Arab Contractors (Egy)
1993	Oly. Casablanca (Mor)	Al Sadd (Qatar)
1994	Oly. Casablanca (Mor)	Al Qadsia (SA)

SINGAPORE

Abbas arrested

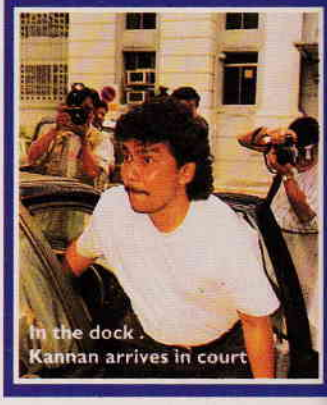
SHRUGGING off the Malaysian FA's allegation of being cold-shouldered in its efforts to arrest bookies and punish corrupt players, Singapore arrested 28-year-old midfielder Saad Abbas, a Lebanese-born Australian, and convicted two other bookies within a week.

Abbas, a prolific goal-scorer, was one of Singapore's top scorers in last season's Malaysia Cup.

Abbas was the fifth person hauled to court for plotting to fix matches so far. Abbas was accused of plotting with Czech Michael Vana, who skipped bail and fled to his hometown Prague, a bookie and several others to fix matches in the Malaysian league. Abbas pleaded not guilty and was released on bail of US £44,000. Abbas later said "I am all for clean soccer".

A week before, former Singapore national player Kunjuraman Kannan and President of a local club Ong Kheng Hock were found guilty of match fixing and were jailed for 18 months and 30 months respectively. Both were heavily finned and are appealing their sentences.

In October last year Singapore's 43-year-old FIFA referee Thiru Rajamanickahm was jailed for eight months and fined US £44,000, when he pleaded guilty to two charges involving match-fixing.



In the dock . . . Kannan arrives in court

ASIAN FOOTBALL

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MALAYSIA

MALAYSIAN football executives are still spending their scarce time tracking and punishing bookies and corrupt players, rather than charting their football progress maps.

Malaysia's home Ministry has banished four more footballers: Azizul Abu Hanifah, Aziz Azizan, Zami Taib, Che Harizal Hassan and former coach of Negeri Sembilan Roslan Yaacub into internal exile to remote districts in Malaysia.

To date Malaysian police have arrested about 150 footballers for alleged match-rigging since the investigation began in August last year. More than 20 players have been banished to internal exile and another 80 banned from playing. Three Malaysian bookies were also arrested and banished during the probe.

BANGLADESH

THE Southern-most island district, Bhola, are the new surprise champions of the Sher-e-Bangla Cup National Football Championship of Bangladesh.

In the final of the 19th National Championship Bhola defeated the four-time Champions Dhaka University, 2-1.

QATAR

AS last season's champions Qatari club Al Arabi were involved in the Asian Club Championship, The Gulf Cup and The Arab Cup-winners Cup, Danish coach Larsen stirred Al-Rayan to win the 1994-95 Qatar League comfortably with two matches to spare.

The consistent scoring prowess of local forward M. Motlaq helped Al-Rayan, who last won it in 1990.

The Qatar FA decided to make no change to the structure of the league this season as the Second Division was not contested.

AZAM MAHMOOD

JORDAN

AL FAYSALI won the FA Cup for a record eighth time out of 15 possible, in a strange way.

In the final, against League runners-up Al Ramtha, Sobhi Awad put them ahead in the 20th minute, only for their opponents to withdraw from the field, claiming the goal was offside. Al Faysali were declared 3-0 winners by the federation!

OMAN

THE federation has appointed Jan Pivarnik as their Olympic team coach.

He was a full-back in the 1976 European Nations Cup, and helped Czechoslovakia to win in the final against West Germany.

MOHAMED CHBARO

BAHRAIN

THE MUMTAZ LEAGUE is entering the final phase of the season and the club setting a cracking pace are perennial champions Muharraq – who have opened up a huge five-point lead over three clubs engaged in a battle for the runners-up spot.

Muharraq have continued their impressive form with recent wins over Qadisiya (3-1), Jidhafs (1-0) and Bahrain (2-1). Last season's champions, East Rifa, have had a recent good run of wins over Budaiya (3-0), an impressive 3-1 victory over rivals West Riffa and a 1-0 win over Al Wehad.

AIDAN PAYNE

CHINA

FIFA have turned down a Chinese proposal concerning using the old two-points-for-a-win rule this season, which will run from April 16 to November 18.

According to the proposal, the CFA do not think that the three-points-for-a-win rule is suitable for the poor quality Chinese League.

On the one hand, the new rule will extend the spread of points in the table between the good clubs and the poor clubs, which may make the last matches uninteresting. On the other hand, but equally important, the new rule will increase the possibility of corruption in matches.

- THE Jilin team, near the Korea peninsula, have signed a sponsorship deal with South Korea's Hyundai Motor Corporation, replacing their previous link with another South Korea's sponsor, Tri-star. The new deal is worth about Y400,000. Jilin are the only Chinese club who have overseas sponsorship.
- IN the Olympic Games qualifying matches China's opponents, Singapore and Malaysia, have turned down a Chinese proposal concerning playing China's away matches in Singapore and Malaysia in March.

Both insist that China should go to Singapore and Malaysia for their away games in scorching and rainy June. Under the circumstances, China took a retaliatory measure by locating their home matches in the plateau city of Kunmimg, about 1,897 metres above sea level.

ZHENG MING

SOUTH ASIAN GOLD CUP

SARATH WELLAGE was Sri Lanka's hero in their 1-0 victory over India in the final of the second Gold Cup for South Asian nations in Colombo.

Sarath, a 28-year-old corporal in the Sri Lankan army, went on as a substitute in the 68th minute and scored in the 18th minute of sudden-death extra-time.

The Sugathadasa Stadium was packed to its 25,000 capacity for the final, and a further 10,000 fans were locked outside for the biggest day in Sri Lankan football history.

Sri Lanka, runners-up to India in the first Gold Cup in 1993, always felt they could go one better after holding India to a 2-2 draw in their Group B meeting – the first time Sri Lanka had not been beaten by India since 1952, when they drew 1-1 in Calcutta.

"This is a great day for Sri Lankan football in general and for me in particular because it was my first appearance in the national team," said Sarath.

"Hopefully our victory will give football more respect in the eyes of the Sri Lankan people."

The local newspapers were dominated by cricket for much of the Gold Cup, but Sri Lanka's success elevated football to new heights in the popularity stakes.

The star of the tournament, however, was Bhaichung Bhutia, already known as 'the Wonder Boy' and 'the Sachin Tendulkar of Indian football'. He scored two magnificent headers in the 2-2 draw with Sri Lanka before his supply line dried up.

The 19-year-old Bhutia, however, showed enough in other aspects of the game to be voted Player of the Final.

He was born in Tinkitam village in Sikkam state, North East India, hence the Chinese features, and was spotted by two talent scouts from Calcutta playing in Gangtok, the capital of Sikkim.

Although his parents preferred him to stay at home and study, Bhutia headed south to Calcutta and signed for East Bengal. Now he combines private studies with training and is one of the highest paid players in India, with a salary of £10,000 for the 1995-96 season.

HONG KONG

SING TAO, one of the oldest clubs in Hong Kong football, won the premier knockout competition of the season, the Viceroy Cup, for the first time, with a 3-0 victory over Instant-Dict.

Sing Tao had beaten the Viceroy Cup holders, South China, 3-0 in the semi-finals and were always favourites to win the final after taking a first-half lead through English striker Nick Dent.

Instant-Dict, named after the electronic Chinese-English dictionary produced by the club sponsor, suffered a further blow shortly after when Ian Blackstone was dismissed for fouling Darren Jackson and then sparking a touchline fracas.

John Moore, formerly with Sunderland, scored the second from a narrow angle after a bad mistake by Instant's reserve goalkeeper, Chan Sauyin, and Dent grabbed his second near the end as their opponents wilted in the afternoon heat.

Without South China in the final, however, the gate receipts suffered and just under 9,000 fans turned up for what is regarded as the big date of the season at the 40,000-capacity Hong Kong Stadium.

JEREMY WALKER

INDIA

RUSTAM AKHRAMOV, who coached his native Uzbekistan to victory in last year's Asian Games in Japan, is India's new chief football coach.

He is 47, and says he is looking for a squad with 80 per cent in the 20-22 age group and the rest with more experience.

Akhramov is the latest foreign coach to take the India job, following Ciric Milovan, Jozef Geli and Jiri Pesek, and he arrived in time to help his new team in the five-nation Nehru Gold Cup in Calcutta.

India, who had won only two matches in previous tournaments, in 1982 and in 1991, lost 5-0 to Thailand in their opening game this time, but then drew 1-1 with Iraq, the eventual champions, and beat Uzbekistan 1-0 before losing 3-0 to Russia.

GC DAS

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Football, the Game of the Future.

Back to his best

Paul Moon on the ups and downs of Mark Bosnich

AFTER missing much of the 1994-95 season through foot and knee injuries, Mark Bosnich is again displaying the kind of form which last year moved Ron Atkinson, then his manager at Aston Villa, to proclaim him "the best goalkeeper in the world".

That judgement, even if it must be taken with a pinch of salt (Atkinson often delights in teasing the media with hyperbole), greatly increased the public's expectations of Bosnich.

After all, he was only 23 at the time and the consensus is that most great goalkeepers do not reach their peaks until over 30. Nowhere is the expectation greater than in his native Australia.

Bosnich is certainly no late developer. As a 16-year-old he was playing for Sydney Croatia in the National Youth League and the New South Wales junior representative team as well as his school, Liverpool Boys' High.

He was at another Liverpool when he had trials with the famous Reds on Merseyside. Bosnich failed to agree terms at Anfield but negotiations at Manchester United proved more fruitful. In 1988 he signed apprentice professional forms at Old Trafford after a brief trial there.

He made his United first team debut against Wimbledon in April 1990 but had played only a couple more League games when the government declined to issue him with a work permit – despite having lived in Lancashire for three years. He was unceremoniously deported and remains bitter about the episode.

His performances at the 1991 World Youth Cup finals, in which he was voted best goalkeeper, made the mediocrity of Australia's domestic fare hard to stomach. Rejoining Sydney Croatia, Bosnich registered just five Coca-Cola National Soccer League appearances before deciding to have another tilt at Europe.

He was with Brondby in Denmark when Atkinson secured a work permit for the player and offered a lifeline back to the English League.

Progress was also made on the international front. The understudy to Jil Filan when the Australian Under-23 squad departed for the 1992 Olympics in Spain, Bosnich was given the keeper's jersey after Ghana inflicted a sobering 3-1 defeat at Sabadell. He played superbly as the 'Olyroos' reached the semi-finals of a major international competition for the first time – although a 6-1 hammering by Poland brought the Aussies and their keeper down to earth and Filan returned for the third-place play-off with Ghana.

Safe keeping . . . Australia's Bosnich

That was a temporary setback, though. After prising 1982 European Champions Cup Final hero Nigel Spink out of Villa's first team, Bosnich speedily established himself among the League's most spectacular shot-stoppers, particularly from penalties.

Bosnich's full international debut came in a World Cup qualifying series at Auckland in May 1993. His commanding performances in twice keeping out New Zealand had Australian Soccer Federation officials drooling.

He then promptly shattered them by announcing his retirement from international football.

Bosnich had been put under pressure by Villa, who were not happy with the idea of having a key player jetting halfway around the world on a regular basis – especially for a team of limited capabilities – and reminded him that his bread was buttered in Birmingham.

He thus missed Australia's dramatic win over Canada that took them to within a step of USA '94. The prospect of sharing the stage with Diego Maradona prompted Bosnich's international comeback just two and a half months later. He played a significant role in an exciting 1-1 draw at Sydney but injury ruled him out of the Buenos Aires return, when Argentina went through with a single-goal victory.

So Bosnich was denied the greatest of stages – and more the pity. Nobody was more influential as Aston Villa won the Coca-Cola Cup last season when, to add icing to the cake, Manchester United were vanquished in the Final.

It was then that Ron Atkinson made his eyebrow-raising claim about the young Australian's status among the best. Atkinson's successor, Brian Little, is less impressed though and it is thought an offer of £3million by Rangers to take him to Scotland has yet to be rejected by Villa.

Bosnich's international future is also open to conjecture. He has said little of late to indicate that he is particularly bothered about winning a fourth cap.

Bosnich could be forgiven for viewing his Australian citizenship as a hindrance. Due to UEFA's restrictions on foreign players, his opportunities in European club competitions are reduced too. He was stood down for Villa's UEFA Cup game at Internazionale because three other non-English players were preferred.

However, with Australia only required to overcome Asian opposition en-route to future World Cup finals, Bosnich could yet discover that his home country offers him his best chance of making an indelible mark in the game.

AUSTRALIA

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS claimed their fourth Minor Premiership in five years by topping the 1994-95 Australian Coca-Cola National Soccer League at the end of the double round-robin phase.

The Knights finished one point ahead of defending champions Adelaide City and held a two-point advantage over Sydney United – surprisingly narrow margins for a team who began the season with eight straight victories.

The Victorians would have been pipped at the post had United won their last game. Instead, they lost 3-2 to Morwell Falcons, who snatched fourth place and qualified for their first play-offs series.

South Melbourne will feature in the finals for the sixth successive season despite spending much of it in the bottom half.

Adelaide City's proven ability to peak at the right time makes them favourites to capture the championship again, particularly as Melbourne Knights and Sydney United will be without key players on duty for Australia at the World Youth Cup.

NEW ZEALAND

THE New Zealand national team face their greatest test since the 1982 World Cup finals when they go on a tour to South America in June.

Three of the games on the five-match itinerary will be in the Chilean FA's Centenary tournament. They face Chile in Antofagasta on June 16, Peru (Iquique, June 19) and Turkey (Santiago, June 22).

The All Whites also will meet Tahiti en route to South America and Chile again after the tournament has ended.

TAHITI

TAHITI established themselves as favourites for August's South Pacific Games championship, which they will host, when winning a two-match series with Fiji in Papeete.

Yet the Fijians had a dream start. They led 3-0 at half-time in the opener, only to be forced to settle for a draw after the home side dominated the second spell. Two shrewd substitutions turned the tide.

Tahiti maintained their ascendancy in the return match, scoring twice in the first 10 minutes and adding a third shortly after half-time.

Fiji were without two of their key players, Radike and Ravuama Madigi, suspended for breaking curfew at a training camp shortly before the squad flew to Tahiti.

Their return is essential if Fiji are to have any hope of repeating their gold medal success of four years ago.

PAUL MOON

MEXICO

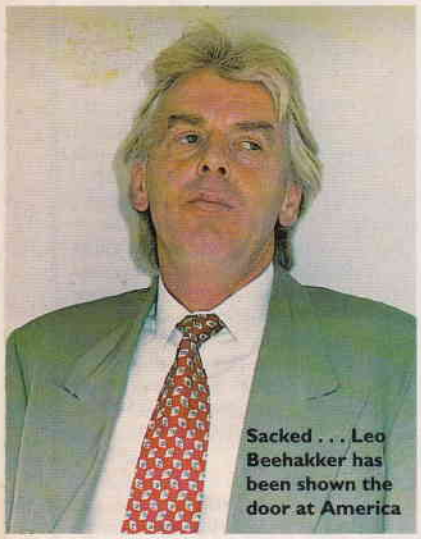
Beenhakker out, Jozic in

MIRKO JOZIC is the new manager of America. He is a former First Division player in Yugoslavia who spent three years managing champions Colo Colo of Chile, and later headed the Chilean national side.

He succeeds Leo Beenhakker, the Dutchman fired because of poor performances, in the second half of the Mexican season.

At the end of the first half, America had 11 victories, five draws and only two defeats, scoring 56 goals (more than three per match). Omam-Biyik had 21 goals in 17 matches played, leading the League list.

Then the problems started. The board of directors of America (the oldest active First Division team, dating back to 1916 and owned by *Televisa*) pointed out to Beenhakker that the team had conceded 26 goals in the same 18 matches, and it was obvious they needed to reinforce the defence.



Sacked . . . Leo Beehakker has been shown the door at America

They signed Cameroon's Jean-Claude Pagal, Eduardo Soto from Chile and Branco II from Brazil, plus Luis Garcia, in spite of having three strikers: Zague, Omam-Biyik and Uribe.

Suddenly everything went wrong for Beenhakker. His communication with players started to deteriorate; he lived in Cuernavaca (some 40 miles away from the city) and at the end of each training session and match he rushed home and did not have much social relationship with the team.

He used Luis Garcia as a midfielder, and never used any of the three players signed to improve the defence.

The team lost 4-1 to Atlante and drew five matches in a row, and went out of the Copa Mexico to Necaxa, the other *Televisa* team.

Whatever the reasons behind the change, Beenhakker sued America for wrongful dismissal and left the country, although he really does not have any legal basis to win the suit.

America still have a chance of being champions, as do Necaxa, but Guadalajara, the leaders, and Cruz Azul are more likely to finish one and two.

National coach Miguel Mejia Baron was criticised following the team's 2-1 defeat by Chile in Los Angeles for switching goalkeeper Jorge Campos into attack at half-time. Veteran international Hugo Sanchez called it a lack of respect for forwards in the squad.

Campos, who started as a forward, frequently plays in attack for his club, UNAM, coached by . . . Mejia Baron.

CARLOS RAMIREZ

UNITED STATES

BYE-BYE BORA

THE Bora Milutinovic era in American soccer began on May 5, 1991 in Denver with a 1-0 win for the US against Uruguay. It ended in Dallas on March 25 this year. Another exhibition game against Uruguay. This one ended 2-2.

It also ended untidily. With five minutes remaining the Dallas weather turned vicious, torrential rain and bolts of lightning had players, fans and coaches racing for cover. A tumultuous end indeed.

The departure of the Yugoslav from his coaching post was mishandled by the US Soccer Federation, bungled to the extent that it is going to cost them over $200,000.

The money is only part of the confusion – which started the moment he was hired in 1991.

Milutinovic should have come in as a true national coach, with responsibility for all national teams and setting coaching philosophies.

Incredibly, a month before his hiring, USSF Secretary-General Hank Steinbrecher gave those jobs to Bob Gansler – the former national coach, the very man whom Bora had been hired to replace.

So Milutinovic, wisely, stayed out of the development area completely, apart from an occasional appearance at a coaching symposium or clinic. He read the situation perfectly: his input would not be welcomed by Gansler and the group of cronies he had assembled in the USSF's coaching department.

Milutinovic was simply the World Cup coach. His job: to make sure the US got into the second round of USA '94. He did that – and was then left without enough work for a highly-paid ($175,000 a year) coach.

Yet the USSF, in the persons of Steinbrecher and the president Alan Rothenberg, went on deluding themselves that Milutinovic was a true national coach.

Rothenberg, who had come to like him, publicly stated that he would be the USA's coach for the next World Cup. Steinbrecher expressed vague hopes that Milutinovic would get more involved in the coaching and development areas.

He showed no great enthusiasm for that, even after Gansler was fired. Things changed when Portuguese coach Carlos Queiros entered the picture late last year. Steinbrecher quickly became a Queiros fan. "I don't need a contract, I have Alan's word," Milutinovic told me in January. But Rothenberg's word proved to be unreliable.

In April, the USSF announced that he had resigned, but Milutinovic said he'd been fired and has blamed Steinbrecher for his removal.

There will be no more of the Yugoslav's delightfully baffling press conferences. He never did trust his own English and generally insisted on speaking in Spanish with a translator. So we got Bora-speak, a curious mixture of English and Spanish.

His four years have been a disappointment if measured by his nationwide effect on the game. No innovations, no exciting new paths opened up, few new players.

Queiros will need powers to reorganize the whole structure of the USSF's coaching and player-development areas should he take up the challenge. Timo Liekoski, whose record as Olympic coach in the Pan American games in Argentina in March left something to be desired, takes over temporarily from Gansler.

The USSF will be looking for a marked improvement for the Olympic Games in Atlanta in July of next year.

PAUL GARDNER

GUATEMALA

WITH two rounds remaining in the Hexagonal Group, first-phase champions Comunicaciones need one point to clinch the First Division title and avoid a play-off.

The 'Cremas' have been led throughout the season by Honduran Milton Nunez, who has 18 goals, two behind Jose Luis Anon of Escuintla.

Speaking of goals, they have almost become an extinct species in the Hexagonal Group. Only one team, Comunicaciones, average more than a goal per match.

Aurora can still force a showdown with Comunicaciones, but must obtain the maximum four points and somehow manage to erase a tremendous goal-differential disadvantage. The departures of Tomas Rochez (Olimpia) and Luis Enrique Calix (Marathon) to their native Honduras have not helped matters.

Frustrated Municipal gave their fans something to cheer about, defeating Belize's Real Verdes 6-0 on aggregate in the CONCACAF Champions Cup.

COSTA RICA

EVEN though Alajuela had four more wins and scored 21 more goals, Saprissa still managed to win the first phase of the Costa Rican Championship.

The main difference between the two was that Saprissa registered 15 draws in 44 matches, nine more than 'La Liga'. If the three-points-for-a-win system had been in place, Alajuela would have been champions by . . . three points.

Nevertheless, Saprissa thoroughly deserved the championship, as they were the most consistent team. Unfortunately for Alajuela, an early-season slump put them in a difficult situation.

The second phase commenced with the top eight finishers being separated into two groups of four. After one round, Cartagines and Alajuela top Groups A and B, respectively.

Juan Carlos Arguedas of Alajuela tops the scoring chart with 22 goals, three ahead of Perez Zeledon's Farlen Ilama.

HONDURAS

EVEN though both teams failed to field their top players, Honduras' 1-1 draw with World champions Brazil has sent shockwaves throughout the CONCACAF region.

The 1991 Gold Cup runners-up had basically been written-off after stumbling badly in the 1993 CONCACAF Championship and World Cup '94 qualifiers. But, recent results (an impressive showing by the Under-23 squad at the Pan American Games and the draw with Brazil) suggest that they can retain their Central American title later this year and push for the top spot at the 1996 Gold Cup.

On the domestic scene, Olimpia have again exerted their domination with an impressive 2-0 defeat of second-placed Motagua. The Tegucigalpa-based club emerged from a rough patch unscathed to take a nine-point lead.

Marathon advanced to the second round of the CONCACAF Cup-winners Cup, beating Cosmos FC of Panama, 8-1 on aggregate.

BERMUDA

VASCO DA GAMA captured their second straight Bermuda FA Challenge Cup, with a 2-0 victory over Devonshire Cougars, before 3,128 fans at the National Sports Centre in Devonshire.

Kentoine Jennings and Dwight Basden scored goals in the 23rd and 76th minutes, respectively, for the winners.

EL SALVADOR

LUIS ANGEL FIRPO regained a share of first place with FAS, when Firpo won their clash 2-0, before 18,000 fans at the Memorial Coliseum in Los Angeles.

Raul Diaz Arce and Sergio Rodriguez scored for the winners, who hold a slight advantage on goal difference.

League matches are frequently played outside El Salvador. In the United States, there are many Salvadoreans living in Washington DC and Los Angeles.

SCOTT GLEBA

BROOKING talkback

BBC Radio and TV commentator TREVOR BROOKING, the former England midfielder, answers your letters . . .

THIS is your chance to join the debates on soccer's big issues. Send your views to Trevor Brooking, the TV analyst and former England and West Ham player, and he will reply to a selection each month.

● Write to Trevor Brooking c/o *WORLD SOCCER*, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London, SE1 9LS. The comments are Trevor Brooking's opinions and do not necessarily reflect *WORLD SOCCER*'s views. He will only answer those letters published.

SEND FOR SALAKO

TREVOR – I think Crystal Palace's John Salako should be back in the England squad. Having played alongside him in an adidas/AFCAT team against the Scottish Under-19s last season at Cumbernauld, I have followed his career whenever possible. Although Palace have struggled in the League this season, Salako's jinking runs and inch-perfect crosses continue to thrill. He would be ideal in the England set up, playing alongside Shearer and Cole.
IAN McKAY, Ayr, Ayrshire

JOHN SALAKO has done very well to sustain his form this season, with Crystal Palace struggling in the Premiership. England manager Terry Venables did involve him in a training get-together earlier this year but he still has a long way to go before completely recapturing the form he showed under Graham Taylor. It has been a long haul after two career-threatening operations on his knee. He is an excellent crosser of the ball and England lack a natural wide player down the left. It would be useful to include him against Brazil, Sweden and Japan in June.

CUP-TIE CONCERN

TREVOR – I'm having difficulty understanding this cup-tie business.

Take Ruud Gullit, for example. UEFA didn't allow him to play for Sampdoria in the Cup-winners Cup competition because he has already played a few matches for Milan in the Champions League.

So what? Gullit wasn't part of the Milan side that earned their spot in the Champions League and if Sampdoria had gone on to win the Cup-winners Cup he wouldn't have been allowed to play next year in their defence of the trophy. And if Milan win the Champions Cup, Gullit will not receive a medal. I think the concept should be scrapped.
RYAN HOVINGA, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada

IT can be confusing but some sort of restriction is needed otherwise the wealthier clubs could buy success even more easily. The qualifying period makes life more testing. Gullit's case was unusual as it was a different UEFA competition. But both club and player know the rules at the start of the season and if they are willing to change they must be aware of what that entails in terms of playing in Europe.

FAIR GO FOR OCEANIA

TREVOR – Surely it is FIFA's objective to improve the quality of the game worldwide and this can only be achieved by providing all countries with strong opposition and realisable objectives. Regarding qualification for the next World Cup, perhaps it is more realistic to abolish the Oceania Group and have the countries integrated into Asia rather than the winning nation granted automatic World Cup qualification as suggested by some people.

Achievements in an expanded Asia-Pacific Group may give these countries much needed – and for Australia, deserved – credibility and also consistently stronger opposition.
DAVID SPRING, Belgium

OCEANIA teams have huge potential but the key to development is for their teams to play stronger opposition on a more regular basis. However he major international sides are reluctant to travel the distance involved and even if they do, it is rare for teams of this quality to arrive at full strength. What has happened is that the better players from Oceania have often ended up playing their club football in Europe and this makes it difficult when the national managers find them unavailable.

PROTECT AND SURVIVE

TREVOR – Do you think that justice has been done regarding the punishment meted out to players? Should Manchester United's Eric Cantona receive such a large punishment when there's still that risk of provocation from the crowd?

Look at what has happened in Ireland and England concerning English fans. How can a player do his job well when there is pressure and threats from the crowd? Not giving England the chance to host the 1996 European Championships would be a start and also a lesson to their fans.
EPIE JULIUS, N, Istanbul, Turkey

I AGREE crowd behaviour is still a serious problem but I think the punishment of Cantona was correct. There was no excuse for his reaction. It is the responsibility of players to control their temper. Managers and coaches could do more and reduce the antagonism so often caused by events on the pitch. Also, with the introduction of closed-circuit television, physical flair-ups have diminished because even the dumbest trouble-maker realises he can be identified and arrested. The next step is to train club stewards to deal with verbal abuse from fans.

HRISTO HORROR SHOW

TREVOR – I am disgusted that Hristo Stoichkov got the European Player of the Year award because he does not deserve it. He is rough, arrogant and in the World Cup semi-final against Italy he slapped one of the Italian players for no reason. I guess that it's his attitude.
IANJALI KHANNA *(address supplied)*

CERTAINLY Hristo Stoichkov would not win any diplomacy awards. His tetchy gestures hardly endear him to his own team-mates. Any coveted award should include some emphasis on general conduct. Of course he helped inspire Bulgaria to a memorable performance in the World Cup but we should not forget the contributions from others, like goalkeeper Mikhailov and midfielders Balakov and Lechkov. Other contenders would include Roberto Baggio, Tomas Brolin, Dejan Savicevic and even Jurgen Klinsmann. My vote would have gone to defender Paolo Maldini.

MAJOR RUMPUS

TREVOR – Having just read Paul Gardner's CONCACAF article in the March edition of *WORLD SOCCER*, I must confess I am disgusted with the way Major League Soccer continues to alter the game to suit American audiences, particularly with respect to goalscoring. If you want to see double-digit results, watch basketball!

Don't you agree that at some point gaining a permanent foothold in the US becomes secondary to protecting the very essence of the game?
GERARD DETA, South Boston, Massachussetts, USA

I THINK your last sentence sums up the whole issue. No country should be treated any differently, especially if it adversely reflects the game. The other major American sports have fought hard to stifle any great advances since the World Cup. If their media stranglehold cannot be loosened then that is a problem but it should not encourage tinkering with the rules any further.

Diary

SATURDAY, APRIL 1

ACTION: Standard edge two points clear in Belgium, beating Lommel 1-0 while second-placed champions Anderlecht are held 1-1 away to Mechelen . . . Bayern Munich prepare for their Champions Cup semi-final against Ajax by slumping to their third German League defeat of the season, 3-1 to Koln, for whom Toni Polster scores twice . . . Juventus take a major step towards their first Italian League title in nine years by winning 2-0 away to Milan while second-placed Parma lose 2-0 to Roma . . . Portuguese champions Benfica crash 4-1 at Farense, their second successive defeat and fourth in five matches.

ARGENTINA: Diego Maradona blames a row with wife Claudia for his week-long disappearance. Reports that he had checked into a drugs clinic he dismisses as "all lies, a lot of stupidities".

SUNDAY, APRIL 2

ACTION: Asante Kotoko of Ghana beat Inter Stars of Burundi 4-1 in a CAF Cup- tie . . . Austria Salzburg beat FK Austria 3-0 and thus leapfrog to the top of the Austrian League . . . Liverpool beat Bolton Wanderers 2-1 to win the Coca-Cola League Cup Final at Wembley . . . runaway French leaders Nantes extend their unbeaten run to 31 games with a 1-1 draw at Lens in a match in which four players are sent off in the last 10 minutes – Nantes midfielder Christian Karembeu, then Lens midfielder Frederic Dehu and Nantes striker Japhet N'Doram and finally Nantes' Reynald Pedros for a second bookable offence in the last seconds . . . Ajax Amsterdam recover from two goals down to draw 3-3 at Heerenveen and extend their unbeaten run in the Dutch League to 27 matches. They also go five points clear at the top as nearest rivals Roda JC Kerkrade and PSV Eindhoven are beaten . . . rare hooligan trouble in Portugal with 20 people, including two policemen, injured in clashes between rival fans before the start of the game between Guimaraes and Porto, delaying the kick-off by 15 minutes . . . Real Madrid are held 1-1 away to struggling Compostela but increase their lead in Spain to six points since Barcelona lose 3-1 away to Tenerife. The Tenerife goalkeeper Marcelo Ojeda is sent off early in the game for fouling Aitor Beguiristain but substitute Jose Buljubasich saves the consequent penalty by Ronald Koeman. Barcelona's Ivan is sent off late in the game.

ENGLAND: Manchester United, held at home by Leeds and thus slipping further behind leaders Blackburn, are furious that Russian national team officials subjected winger Andrei Kanchelskis to eight pain-killing injections before the midweek European qualifier against Scotland.

GERMANY: Jupp Heynckes quits as Eintracht Frankfurt coach in the wake of the 3-0 home defeat by Schalke saying: "The realisation that I and the club do not fit together has become more and more stark recently."

MONDAY, APRIL 3

SINGAPORE: Former Singapore star Abbas Saad is charged with conspiracy to fix some of last year's Malaysian Premier League matches. The 27-year-old Lebanese-born Australian denies the charge and is released on bail.

SWITZERLAND: Wales' three rebel non-league clubs are banned by FIFA from all competitions from the end of this season. Newport AFC, Colwyn Bay and Caernarfon Town are fighting a restraint of trade action against the Football Association of Wales in the High Court over the FAW's refusal to allow them to play in English competition. The three clubs' officials are given a two-year ban from any involvement in soccer by FIFA.

TUESDAY, APRIL 4

ENGLAND: Leeds refute claims that striker Tony Yeboah will return to Eintracht Frankfurt at the end of the season.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5

ACTION: In the Champions Cup semi-finals first legs Bayern Munich are held goalless at home by Ajax while Milan snatch a last-minute 1-0 win away to Paris Saint-Germain thanks to a Zvonimir Boban goal.

ARGENTINA: Diego Maradona is granted, at his own request, 20 days leave from his job as coach of Racing Club. President Juan DeStefano says: "I'm happy to help Diego get away for a while from the pressures of Racing and of the media. I'm sure that on April 23 or 24 he will be back."

GERMANY: Borussia Dortmund give notice of a protest to UEFA about the yellow cards issued by French referee Marcel Battas to German internationals Matthias Sammer and Andy Moller in Tuesday's UEFA Cup tie against Juventus. Both will miss the return leg but Dortmund president Gerd Niebaum says: "The referee was not up to international standards."

ITALY: Inter spokesmen reiterate that they are keen to sign Eric Cantona – if Manchester United decide to sell through a failure to agree terms of a new contract with the disgraced French international.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: An International Football Conference is postponed indefinitely after confusion over official sanction – or the lack of it – from FIFA. The April 6-8 talk-in was being organised by the UAE federation in association with the British-based International Business Communications Gulf Conferences.

THURSDAY, APRIL 6

ACTION: In the Cup-winners Cup semi-finals openers, holders Arsenal win narrowly by only 3-2 at home to Sampdoria. Chelsea hooligans cause trouble as their side lose 3-0 to Zaragoza in Spain.

AUSTRIA: Salzburg captain Heimo Pfeifenberger is ruled out for three weeks after injuring a knee in a 1-1 draw with Strum Graz.

ENGLAND: Liverpool's Norway defender Stig-Inge Bjornebye is ruled out for the rest of the season after breaking a leg in a 3-1 home victory over Southampton.

FRANCE: Nantes midfielder Japhet N'Doram, sent off in a League game against Lens, escapes punishment after a disciplinary hearing accepts it was a case of mistaken identity. The foul for which he was shown the red card was committed by team-mate Makelele. Referee Claude Colombo, after watching a video of the incident, says: "I confused the two black players."

ITALY: Juventus striker Gianluca Vialli is out for a month after pulling a hamstring during the 2-2 draw with Borussia Dortmund in the first leg of their UEFA Cup semi-final in Milan on Tuesday.

FRIDAY, APRIL 7

ACTION: Egypt beat Sudan 3-1 in an African Nations qualifier.

ARGENTINA: Diego Maradona is planning a comeback in September once his 15-month dope-test ban expires, says Racing's president Juan Destefano.

BRAZIL: Sports Minister Pele says he is convinced corruption is rife in Rio professional football.

ENGLAND: Chelsea say they were not responsible for the violence at Thursday's Cup-winners Cup tie against Zaragoza in Spain. Chairman Ken Bates says the 300 fans involved in trouble were not travelling with the official Chelsea supporters' group. They had obtained tickets from the Spanish club who sold tickets despite being warned not to by Chelsea.

FRANCE: Former European champions Marseille are put into receivership by a Marseille court with debts estimated at £40million. Disgraced former president Bernard Tapie says: "I am to blame only for not being rich enough to go on." . . . Strasbourg fire Swiss trainer Daniel Jeandupeux five days before their Cup semi-final against Metz. Jeandupeux is accused by president Roland Weller of making insulting remarks about the club and players to the media.

JAPAN: South American confederation president Nicolas Leoz donates £13,000 to a fund for victims of the Kobe earthquake.

MEXICO: Table-topping America shock Mexican football by sacking Dutch coach Leo Beenhakker.

SPAIN: Johan Cruyff ends speculation about his future by insisting he intends to see out his contract with Spanish champions Barcelona until 1997. After a meeting with president Jose Luis Nunez, Cruyff says: "We have already drawn up plans for the next few years, not just the coming days and months."

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

ACTION: Zambia beat Gabon 1-0, amid heavy security, among the day's African Nations qualifiers . . . South American Super Cup holders Independiente beat fellow Argentines Velez Sarsfield, holders of the Libertadores Cup, 1-0 in the Recopa final in Tokyo . . . Belgian champions Anderlecht lose more ground in the title race as they lose 1-0 at home to Sint-Truiden . . . Nantes go 12 points clear in France by beating Sochaux 2-0 with a goal from mistaken identity victim Japhet N'Doram . . . a 70,925 crowd sees German leaders Borussia Dortmund held 0-0 by Schalke.

GERMANY: Bayer Leverkusen sack trainer Dragoslav Stepanovic and replace him with Erich Ribbeck after a run of five home defeats and a 2-1 upset by Parma in the UEFA Cup.

SUNDAY, APRIL 9

ACTION: Further African Nations qualifiers include a 2-0 win over Lesotho for Bruce Grobbelaar's Zimbabwe . . . England's FA Cup semi-finals see Everton beat Tottenham 4-1 but Manchester United are held 1-1 after extra time by Crystal Palace in a match overshadowed by the death of a Palace fan in fighting at a public house before the game . . . Werder Bremen beat 1860 Munich 2-0 to pull level on points with Borussia Dortmund . . . two goals by Polish striker Krzysztof Warzycha lift Panathinaikos to a 3-0 win over Iraklis in Greece and extend their lead to 17 points over Olympiakos . . . in Holland Ajax thrash Willem II 7-0 while Brazilian striker Ronaldo scores a hat-trick in PSV's 4-0 win over Utrecht . . . Juventus stay nine points clear in Italy despite losing 2-1 to Torino in the Turin derby. Paul Gascoigne makes his Lazio comeback in a 2-0 win over Reggiana . . . Real Madrid beat Zaragoza 3-0 to move closer to their first Spanish League title in five years. A second division scoring record is set by Antonio Puche, who hits six for Palamos against Leganes.

GERMANY: Werder Bremen sign Brazilian defender Junior Baiano from Sao Paulo on the recommendation of coach-in-waiting Aad de Mos.

RUSSIA: Russia recall striker Igor Kolyvanov for the European qualifier against Greece following his recovery from a knee injury suffered in last September's 4-0 home win against San Marino. Squad: Kharin, Cherchesov, Ovchinnikov; Nikiforov, Kulkov, Afanasyev, Kovtun, Khlestov, Onopko, Mamedov, Khokhlov, Kanchelskis, Piatnitsky, Mostovoi, Karpin, Radimov, Tsimbalar, Shalimov, Lediakhov, Tetradze, Dobrovolski, Kolyvanov, Radchenko, Pisarev, Kiryakov, Beschastnikh.

MONDAY, APRIL 10

GERMANY: Freiburg midfielder Joerg Heinrich is called up by Germany for the first time for the European qualifier against Wales. Squad: Kopke; Klos, Reck; Babbel, Helmer, Kohler, Reuter, Sammer, Weber, Ziege; Basler, Eilts, Freund, Hassler, Heinrich, Moller, Scholl, Todt; Herrlich, Kirsten, Klinsmann, Kuntz.

GHANA: Ghana calls on Africa to boycott the World Youth Cup in protest at the switch to Qatar from Nigeria. The Foreign Ministry describes the switch as unkind and unfair to Nigeria which has gone to great trouble and expense in its preparations. The statement adds: "The government considers the decision smacks of discrimination against Nigeria and for that matter black Africa."

SWITZERLAND: FIFA decides to experiment with Basktball-style time-outs in the Women's World Championship in Sweden in June. Coaches are empowered to seek one two-minute time-out each in both halves. Time-out tests are under way in the Sao Paulo League in Brazil and in the Swedish League. A FIFA spokesman says the experiment might even be extended to next year's European Championship finals in England . . . FIFA concedes that international caps can be awarded after all for the abandoned February international between the Irish Republic and England . . . Swiss officials meet in emergency session to decide on new security measures in the wake of weekend crowd trouble at Basel and Lucerne on Saturday when 20 fans were injured.

TURKEY: Leeds manager Howard Wilkinson is offered a three-year contract by Galatasaray.

TUESDAY, APRIL 11

FRANCE: Paris Saint-Germain cruise comfortably into the French Cup final by thrashing crisis-hit Marseille 2-0.

GERMANY: Second division Wolfsburg shock hosts Koln to win 1-0 and thus become the fourth successive lower-division side to reach the German Cup final. Veteran striker Siegfried Reich nets the only goal in the 18th minute . . . both champions Bayern Munich and leaders Borussia Dortmund express an interest in signing German striker Jurgen Klinsmann, following Tottenham's FA Cup semi-final exit.

ITALY: League leaders Juventus beat 10-man Lazio 2-1 to qualify for the Italian Cup Final 3-1 on aggregate . . . Milan deny reports that Marco Van Basten has been told his career is finished because of a persistent ankle injury. A spokesman says: "These reports are based on unfounded rumours. Van Basten is following the programme set down by doctor [Marc] Martens but his latest check-up has been delayed until towards the end of the month. It was put off because improvement in his condition has been slower than expected."

REP IRELAND: Manager Jack Charlton keeps faith with his established players when he names his squad for the qualifier against Portugal at Lansdowne Road, Dublin, on April 26.

WALES: Arsenal's John Hartson is surprisingly left out of the 18-man squad for Wales' April 26 European Championship qualifier in Germany.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12

CHILE: Universidad Catolica beat compatriots Universidad de Chile 4-1 in a stormy Libertadores cup tie which sees two players sent off, a pitch brawl and two policemen hurt in trying to prevent scuffling among fans – as bitterness carries over from the clubs' row over refereeing decisions in last year's national championship.

ENGLAND: Tottenham manager Gerry Francis says Jurgen Klinsmann has told him and chairman Alan Sugar that he intends to stay at White Hart Lane next season despite reported interest from Bayern Munich and Borussia Dortmund.

ENGLAND: Manchester United's Roy Keane and Darren Patterson of Crystal Palace are sent off as United win their FA Cup semi-final replay 2-0 at Villa Park. Violence flares on the pitch despite pre-match appeals to fans from both managers for peace and goodwill.

FRANCE: Strasbourg beat Metz 1-0 to reach the French Cup final for the first time in nearly 30 years. Fabrice Pouliquen scores the winner in the 74th minute. Strasbourg will play Paris Saint-Germain in the Final on May 13.

GERMANY: Heiko Herrlich's extra time goal hands Borussia Monchengladbach a 1-0 victory over Kaiserslautern to earn a place in the German Cup final against Wolfsburg.

ITALY: Parma secure a place in the Italian Cup final against Juventus when they come from behind to beat Foggia 3-1 and 4-2 on aggregate . . . Milan and Genoa lose their appeals against the two-game closure of their stadia, imposed after clashes in January led to the death of a fan.

PORTUGAL: Further humiliation for Benfica as they are knocked out of the Cup, beaten 2-0 in a quarter-final replay by Vitoria Setubal.

TURKEY: Orhan Kaynak scores the only goal after 17 minutes as Trabzonspor beat Galatasaray 1-0 in the Cup final.

UKRAINE: Vlodimir Onishchenko quits as coach of Kiev Dynamo after their Cup elimination by Chornomorets Odessa. Onyshchenko had been in charge only since November when he took over from Josif Szabo. General manager Nikolai Pavlov takes over as caretaker.

UNITED STATES: World Cup veterans John Harkes and Frank Klopas are recalled to the US national team for the April 22 friendly against Belgium. Squad: Friedel, Hahnemann; Agoos, Berhalter, Caligiuri, Ibsen, Lozzano; Burns, Deering, Harkes, Jones, Salcedo; Bravo, Kerr, Kirovski, Klopas, Stewart.

WALES: The High Court in London rules in favour of the three Welsh clubs – Newport, Caernarfon and Colwyn Bay – which have insisted on maintaining their right to play League football in England rather than in Wales.

THURSDAY, APRIL 13

ACTION: Argentina beat Holland 1-0 in the opening match of the World Youth Cup in Qatar.

GERMANY: Bulgarian World Cup midfielder Yordan Lechkov says he will leave Hamburg at the season's end amid speculation that he is bound for northern German rivals Werder Bremen, where he would take over from Bayern-bound Andy Herzog as playmaker.

ITALY: Brescia dismiss coach Gigi Maifredi after six matches – all defeats.

SWITZERLAND: Sion midfielder Sebastien Fournier is recalled to Roy Hodgson's 23-man squad for the European qualifier against Turkey in Berne on April 26. Squad: Pascolo, Zuberbuehler; Fernandez, Gaemperle, Geiger, Henchoz, Herr, Hottiger, Thueler, Vega, Walker; Bickel, Bonvin, Fournier, Grassi, Koller, Ohrel, Sforza, Sutter, Vogel; Subiat, Yakin, Zuffi.

WALES: The Welsh FA council decides to seek assurances from UEFA that the High Court defeat on Wednesday will not result in European competition entry being withheld from Konica League clubs.

FRIDAY, APRIL 14

ACTION: Brazil, seeking a fourth World Youth Cup, thrash Asian champions Syria 6-0.

FRANCE: Jacques Mellick, a socialist mayor of Bethune and former Cabinet minister, receives a suspended jail term and a two-year ban on holding office for pressuring a witness in the Marseille match-fixing trial. Mellick is convicted of demanding that a former parliamentary aide, Corinne Krajewski, corroborate his lies about a purported meeting with Bernard Tapie.

SCOTLAND: Rangers manager Walter Smith is handed £10million for a summer spending spree designed to solve the paradox of the club's domestic dominance and European Cup failure. Chairman David Murray launches other financial initiatives.

UNITED STATES: Bora Milutinovic resigns as United States national coach after failing to reach agreement over the scope of his job. The federation wanted him to oversee the development of players and coaches in the national team system but the 50-year-old Serbian native wanted to concentrate solely on the men's senior national team.

SATURDAY, APRIL 15

ACTION: Nantes lose their season-long unbeaten record in France, going down 2-0 at Strasbourg . . . Inter beat Milan 3-1 in the big derby in Italy but Juventus stay clear top after winning 2-1 away to doomed Reggiana . . . Real Madrid take another significant step forward in Spain, defeating Atletico 2-0 with two goals from Zamorano.

ITALY: The crisis over the Stadio delle Alpi in Turin continues with the investigating magistrate interviewing Giovanni Brassi, of the promotional company Publigest . . . Ruud Gullit is reported close to an agreement to transfer at the season's end from Sampdoria to Monaco.

SUNDAY, APRIL 16

ACTION: Chaos in the World Youth Cup where Holland defeat Honduras 7-1 in a game which has to be abandoned in the 79th minute after Honduras are reduced by four expulsions and one injury to only six players . . . Botafogo beat Flamengo 1-0 in the Maracana in an explosive game which sees six players sent off . . . Nagoya Grampus 8 move off the bottom of the J.League in Japan after beating Shimizu S-Pulse 2-0, Dragan Stojkovic scoring the decisive goal . . . Rangers secure their seventh consecutive league title in Scotland thanks to a 3-1 win over Hibernian.

CROATIA: Strange reports emerge that the Croatia club (formerly Dinamo) are being pressured domestically to "lose" the championship race in favour of Hajduk. Croatia are under a year's UEFA ban so, if they win the title, the country would have no presence in next season's Champions Cup.

MALAYSIA: Some 58 players who have admitted match-fixing in the Malaysian league, are banned from football worldwide for between one and four years by the FAM. All the players have been subject to police investigations though none faces charges. The players are implicated in having taken bribes from bookmakers.

QATAR: Representatives of bookmakers in Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand are exposed as having tried to bribe players at the World Youth Cup.

SCOTLAND: Rangers' Brian Laudrup says he is happy to stay on in Scotland and that he has turned down overtures from Barcelona.

TURKEY: Besiktas extend the contract of coach Christoph Daum . . . Galatasaray give up hope of attracting Giovanni Trapattoni from Bayern Munich as new coach and turn Karlsruhe's Winfried Schafer into their new target.

MONDAY APRIL 17

GERMANY: Bayern Munich accept they risk being penalised vital League points after confirming they mistakenly fielded too many amateur players – four – in their 5-2 victory in Frankfurt.

ITALY: New Inter president Massimo Moratti insists that he wants five foreigners on board next season and that Ruben Sosa will be one of them.

SPAIN: Real Madrid president Ramon Mendoza says that winning the League will probably cost the club around £2million in players' pay and bonuses. Star reserve Emilio Butragueno is targeted by Japan's Verdy Kawasaki. Rafael Martin Vazquez is the subject of transfer approaches from La Coruna.

UNITED STATES: Bora Milutinovic insists he was dismissed by the USSF as national coach, saying: "They took the decision, not me."

YUGOSLAVIA: Velibor Vasovic emerges as favourite to succeed Slobodan Santrac as national team manager.

TUESDAY, APRIL 18

ACTION: In the UEFA Cup semi-finals, Juventus win 2-1 away to injury and suspension-weakened Borussia Dortmund (and thus 4-3 on aggregate) and Parma easily beat Bayer Leverkusen 3-0 (5-1 on aggregate) . . . Germany suffer a potentially fatal 2-1 defeat by Costa Rica in the first round of the World Youth Cup in Qatar.

BRAZIL: National coach Mario Zagalo recalls Aldair and Marcio Santos for the April 27 friendly against Spain in Valencia.

ENGLAND: National coach Terry Venables insists that he needs Sampdoria's David Platt and Lazio's Paul Gascoigne on England duty on the last day of the Italian League programme . . . Eric Cantona starts his community service sentence, coaching schoolboy footballers in Salford.

FRANCE: Metz say they will not compete in the UEFA-Intertoto Cup, should they qualify.

SWITZERLAND: FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter says that Portugal's Luis Figo risks international disciplinary action for his triple-transfer wrangle. The latest situation is that Figo has agreed a four- year deal with Barcelona.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19

ACTION: Milan (2-0 winners away to Paris Saint-Germain) and Ajax Amsterdam (5-2 winners over Bayern Munich) qualify for the European Champions Cup Final in Vienna.

GERMANY: Andy Moller admits he dived deliberately to gain a penalty for Dortmund against Karlsruhe and is warned he risks an eight-game ban.

GREECE: Players, officials and directors are involved in a mass skirmish in the tunnel at half-

time in the Cup Final in which Panathinaikos eventually defeat AEK thanks to a Warzycha penalty in the last minute of extra time. Further incidents follow the penalty award. Two AEK players are sent off.

HOLLAND: Feyenoord are reported in Brazil to have signed an 11-year-old Rio 'wonderboy' named Leonardo. He will move to Rotterdam in 1999. Feyenoord are new favourites as destination for home-returning Ronald Koeman, rather than Groningen . . . Frank Rijkaard will end his career in Ajax's last League game, against Twente, on May 28 – four days after the Champions Cup Final against Milan.

ITALY: Representatives of Turin city council, the Stadio delle Alpi, Juventus and Torino move towards a new agreement on financial arrangements but this will probably not be in place in time to stop Juventus playing 'home' in Milan for their leg of the UEFA Cup Final against Parma . . . Roberto Baggio agrees a three-year, £4million contract extension with Juventus.

PORTUGAL: Benfica's veteran captain, Veloso, reveals that he has lost most of his career savings in a failed business venture.

SWITZERAND: The new FIFA ranking list is again headed by Brazil with Italy moving up to second and Spain slipping to third. FIFA's executive will decide on May 31 on disciplinary action against Nigeria over their boycott of the World Youth Cup finals . . . UEFA announce June 7 as the date for the draw of the increasingly controversial Intertoto Cup. The 12 groups of five teams will play weekends from June 24 to July 23. The 12 group winners and four best runners-up will meet in a second round knock-out section on July 29/30, the quarter-finals will be on August 2 with the four winners going on into the preliminary round of the UEFA Cup proper.

THURSDAY, APRIL 20

ACTION: Arsenal defeat Sampdoria on penalties in Genoa to reach a second successive final of the Cup-winners Cup. Zaragoza lose 3-1 to Chelsea in London but still qualify 4-3 on aggregate from the other semi-final.

GERMANY: Andy Moller, the Dortmund diver, is banned for two league games and fined £4,000 for his "penalty creation" against Karlsruhe.

ITALY: Arrigo Sacchi recalls Roberto Baggio for Italy's European qualifier against Lithuania . . . Parma medical staff say Tomas Brolin may be fit in time to return to duty for the UEFA Cup Final against Juventus.

FRIDAY, APRIL 21

ITALY: Federation president Antonio Matarrese is formally warned by magistrates that he is under investigation for possible abuse of office over charges that the federation paid the expenses of his friends and relatives at last year's World Cup finals in the United States.

ENGLAND: Tottenham's Jurgen Klinsmann says he will not decide on his future until the end of the season on May 13. He says: "I want to gather as much information as possible over the next few weeks, write it down and talk it over with the people who are closest to me, my girlfriend and my parents." . . . Chelsea's former Scotland striker Robert Fleck is banned from receiving FA Cup Final tickets for five years in the most severe FA crackdown yet. More than 20 individuals or clubs receive 10-year bans. A dozen are linked to Manchester United.

RUSSIA: Lokomotiv Nizhny Novgorod hope to sign two players from Brazilian side Sao Paolo. Club president Valery Ovchinnikov says he expects striker Junior to fly into Moscow on Saturday, followed by defender Luis Andre on Monday.

TEAM OF THE MONTH: JUVENTUS
On the verge of winning the Italian title for the first time since 1986

SATURDAY, APRIL 22

ACTION: Belgium beat the United States 1-0 in a friendly in Molenbeek . . . in the African Nations qualifiers, Sierra Leone beat Congo 2-0 and Senegal beat Togo 5-1 . . . German champions Bayern Munich beat League leaders Borussia Dortmund 2-1 but Dortmund stay top because Bremen are held 2-2 by close rivals Kaiserslautern . . . Real Madrid tighten their grip on the Spanish championship by beating Valencia 3-1 with two goals from Zamorano.

GERMANY: German boss Berti Vogts says the suspension of Andy Moller on video evidence is a "slap in the face for referees". Vogts is speaking after cutting his squad for the European championship qualifier with Wales from 22 to 18 players. Vogts omits goalkeeper Stefan Klos, while defenders Thomas Helmer and Jurgen Kohler withdraw with injuries. Moller is also droppped because of his domestic suspension.

SUNDAY, APRIL 23

ACTION: In the African Nations Cup, Ghana qualify for the finals after beating Niger 1-0. In other games Zaire defeat Cameroon 2-1, Liberia beat Tunisia 1-0 and Ethiopia and Uganda draw 0-0 . . . in the World Youth Cup quarter-finals, Spain beat Russia 4-1 and Brazil defeat Japan 2-1 . . . in Argentina, River Plate beat Diego Maradona's Racing 3-1 amid controversy after an incident midway through the second half when, with the score at 1-1, Racing midfielder Ricardo Galarza breaks clear of the River defence and is hauled down by River goalkeeper German Burgos – who is NOT sent off . . . a teenager is shot dead in clashes between rival fans before the Sao Paulo v Palmeiras derby . . . struggling Padova surprisingly win 1-0 away to leaders Juventus in Italy . . . Spanish champions Barcelona run up their first win in six League games by beating Valladolid 4-1 but remain eight points adrift of Real Madrid.

ENGLAND: Birmingham City become the first team to win a Wembley final on the 'golden goal' sudden-death rule when Paul Tait's header 13 minutes into extra time brings them victory over Carlisle United in the lower divisions' cup final the Auto Windscreens Shield.

ISRAEL: Four-goal top striker Ronnen Harazi is ruled out of the European qualifying match in Poland by a recurring stomach muscle injury.

JAPAN: A PanAmerican All-Stars team will take on a Rest of the World XI in Tokyo on August 30 to raise funds for victims of the earthquake in Kobe.

NORTHERN IRELAND: Walsall veteran Kevin Wilson is recalled to the Northern Ireland squad for the European Championship game in Latvia after the withdrawal of five players from manager Bryan Hamilton's original panel because of injuries.

QATAR: FIFA names the five people deported from Qatar for allegedly trying to bribe players taking part in the World Youth Cup as Malaysian Kim Tee Teo, believed to be the ringleader, Pravit Limapongpas, from Thailand, Indonesian Sui Song Tjong and two Malaysian prostitutes, Geok Choo Tan and Wong Chwee May. FIFA president Joao Havelange suggests the award to Malaysia of the 1997 World Youth Cup may be reviewed.

SPAIN: Atletico Madrid president Jesus Gil risks disciplinary action for racial abuse after furious criticism of black Colombian player Adolfo Valencia following the draw against Logrones.

MONDAY, APRIL 24

BELGIUM: Bottom of the table FC Liege decide to merge with third division club Tilleur to avoid bankruptcy. Liege are £5million in debt. The new club, Royal Tilleur Club Liegeois, will play at Tilleur. FC Liege's stadium has been declared unsafe.

ENGLAND: The FA says FA Cup ties would continue to be decided by penalty shoot-outs, despite the generally positive reaction to the sudden-death manner of Birmingham City's weekend victory over Carlisle in the Auto Windscreens Shield Final at Wembley.

FRANCE: A decision on which of three competing consortia will take over crisis-hit Marseille will be announced on May 19, according to judicial sources. The rival consortia include one involving local authorities supported by a number of Japanese backers.

ITALY: Leeds and Everton are now reported among front-runners to bring Paul Gascoigne back to England from Lazio.

TUESDAY, APRIL 25

ACTION: Poland hit back in the second half to recover from 2-1 down and defeat Israel 4-3 in Zarbrze in the European Championship qualifiers . . . a host of European under-21 ties include a 1-0 victory for England in Latvia . . . Brazil and Argentina qualify for the World Youth Cup Finals in Qatar with respective victories over Portugal (amid controversy) and Spain.

ARGENTINA: A court in Mercedes refuses a proposal from lawyers for Diego Maradona that criminal charges be dropped in exchange for his volunteering for community service. Maradona is charged in connection with an airgun incident.

FRANCE: Croat agent Ljubomir Barin is taken into custody after his extradition from Germany on charges linked to fraud inquiries involving both Bordeaux and Marseille.

GERMANY: Stuttgart dismiss coach Jurgen Roeber and commercial manager Dieter Honess appointing Jurgen Sundermann as caretaker until the end of the season.

ITALY: Juventus's Italy defender Andrea Fortunato dies of leukaemia, aged 23.

PORTUGAL: Sporting coach Carlos Queiroz returns home after discussions with USSF officials on taking over as director of technical coaching and youth player development.

ZIMBABWE: Coventry striker Peter Ndlovu is interviewed by police in Harare about an incident on the eve of the 1-1 draw with Malawi.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26

ACTION: The day's European Championship ties include a shock victory for Turkey away to Switzerland and a 3-1 upset for Holland away to the Czech Republic. Germany are jeered off by the fans after being held 1-1 by Wales in Dusseldorf.

BRAZIL: Guarani striker Marcio Amoroso is ruled out for six months after having been viciously fouled in a Sao Paulo league game against Ferroviaria.

FRANCE: Martigues say they have hopes of signing Chris Waddle from Sheffield Wednesday.

GERMANY: German coach Berti Vogts confirms he will be without Jurgen Klinsmann, Herr Herrlich and Mario Basler for the end-of-season centenary tournament in Switzerland. Klinsmann has been granted a holiday, Herrlich will

involved in the Cup Final with Borussia Monchengladbach and Basler is booked into hospital for groin surgery.

LEBANON: Rahif Alame, secretary-general of the LFA, says former Wales manager Terry Yorath will coach Lebanon's national side for the 1996 Pan Arab Games and Asian Games. He is expected to start work in Beirut on June 1 on an 18-month contract.

THURSDAY, APRIL 27

ACTION: Italy beat Lithuania 2-0 in a European under-21 tie.

ARGENTINA: Daniel Passarella includes uncapped Omar Asad, Gabriel Schürrer and Claudio Lopez in his 16-man squad for the May 13 friendly against South Africa in Johannesburg. Squad: Bossio (Estudiantes), Burgos (River Plate); Zanetti (Banfield), Sorin (Argentinos Juniors), Ayala (River Plate), Fabbri, Vivas (Boca Juniors), Schurrer (Lanus); Jiminez (Banfield), Bassedas (Velez Sarsfield), Gallardo, Astrada, Berti (River Plate); Ortega (River Plate), Asad (Velez), Lopez (Racing).

FRANCE: Jean-Claude Suaudeau, coach of champions-elect Nantes, says he is worried that star players, including defender Christian Karembeu, midfielder Reynald Pedros and marksman Patrice Loko, will want to leave at the season's end . . . Jean-Louis Levreau, former vice-president of Marseille, becomes the 10th person indicted in a three-year investigation into the club's finances. Levreau, right-hand man to former owner Bernard Tapie, is charged with fraud and misuse of corporate funds.

ITALY: Veteran sweeper Franco Baresi signs a contract to play one more season with Milan . . . Juventus switch their UEFA Cup Final second leg against Parma from their home city of Turin to Milan after rejecting an offer to split match advertising revenue 50-50 with Acqua Marcia, the company which manages the council-owned Stadio delle Alpi . . . Lazio president Dino Zoff says that, despite speculation, Paul Gascoigne had told Zoff he wants to stay in Italy.

JAPAN: Brazilian World Cup-winners Bebeto and Dunga are reported poised to move to the J.League – Dunga with Jubilo Iwata and Bebeto with Kashima Antlers.

SWITZERLAND: UEFA confirms that Yugoslavia, banned by FIFA in line with United Nations sanctions in May 1992, will return to European club competition with two representatives in the UEFA-Intertoto Cup in June.

TURKEY: Six people die and 13 are injured during all-night celebrations after Turkey's European Championship victory in Switzerland. A woman dies after being struck by a stray bullet while watching cheering crowds from a fifth-floor apartment balcony.

FRIDAY, APRIL 28

ACTION: Argentina win the World Youth Cup, beating Brazil 2-0 in the Final in Doha, Qatar. Portugal hit back from two goals down to beat Spain 3-2 in the third place match.

ENGLAND: Eric Cantona signs a new three-year contract with Manchester United.

GERMANY: The DFB denies a British newspaper report claiming Manchester City striker Uwe Rosler is guaranteed a call-up for the end-of-season tournament in Switzerland.

SPAIN: Romanian forward Ilie Dumitrescu confirms that he received around £550,000 as his cut of the £2.72million transfer sale which took him from Steaua Bucharest to Tottenham Hotspur last summer (he is now on loan to Sevilla).

TURKEY: Fenerbahce step up their bid to sign Rangers' French defender Basile Boli.

SATURDAY, APRIL 29

ACTION: Senegal beat Morocco 1-0 in the second leg of an African Olympic qualifying tie . . . in France, Monaco welcome back Enzo Scifo and beat Lens 6-0 to throw the race for European places wide open . . . Bayern Munich step up their title dreams in Germany by winning 2-0 away to Stuttgart . . . substitute ReneTretschok scores the late goals which earn German League leaders Borussia Dortmund a 2-0 victory over bottom club Dresden . . . in Italy, Juventus and Parma move their League games forward to gain an extra day's rest before their UEFA Cup Final first leg. Juventus beat Fiorentina 4-1 to move closer to their first League title in nine years.

GERMANY: The DFB decides to follow most of the rest of the world and switch to three points for a win next season.

MALAYSIA: Malaysia will turn down the opportunity of hosting the 1997 World Youth Cup if soccer corruption has not been stamped out there by early next year, says Tengku Abdullah, deputy president of the FAM.

SUNDAY, APRIL 30

ACTION: In the African Olympic qualifiers, Togo beat Mali 1-0 and Burkina Faso defeat Tunisia by the same margin . . . a Rio de Janeiro Select and Vissel Kobe of Japan draw 1-1 in a charity match to raise funds for victims of the January earthquake in Kobe . . . Anderlecht beat Standard Liege in Belgium to leapfrog over them at the top of the table – thanks to matches won . . . Werder Bremen lose ground in the German title race, being held 0-0 by crisis-hit Eintracht Frankfurt . . . Real Madrid lay their jinx in Spain, winning 1 0 to Tenerife – who denied them the title on the last day of the season in both 1992 and 1993.

HOLLAND: TV reports imminent agreement between Feyenoord and Ronald Koeman.

MONDAY, MAY 1

SPAIN: Ronald Koeman says he will leave Barcelona at the seaon's end to sign a two-year contract back home in Holland with Feyenoord. Koeman, 32, says: "I chose Feyenoord because they are one of the three biggest in Holland and I've already played for the other two [Ajax and PSV Eindhoven]."

ITALY: Juventus president Umberto Agnelli says that, despite reports to the contrary, the club have not yet agreed a new contract with Roberto Baggio and the player will have to accept a pay cut to stay . . . Lazio owner Sergio Cragnotti says coach Zdenek Zeman will have the last word on Paul Gascoigne.

SCOTLAND: Rangers' Brian Laudrup is voted Scottish Footballer of the Year, the second foreign player after Mark Hateley to win the accolade.

OBITUARY

ANDREA FORTUNATO . . . the Juventus defender diagnosed with leukemia a year ago, has died aged 23. Fortunato, considered one of the most promising Italian defenders, joined Juventus from Genoa in 1993, playing 27 games in his first season before his illness was diagnosed in May, 1994. Fortunato played his only international in September 1993, when Italy beat Estonia 3-0. He made his professional debut with Como in Serie B in 1989 before joining Pisa and then Genoa.

X-WORD

WIN. . . an exclusive WORLD SOCCER sweatshirt

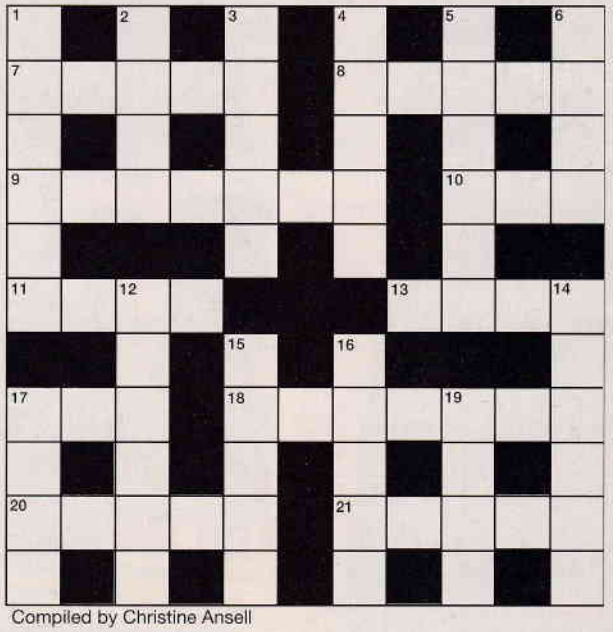
The first five correct entries will each win a WORLD SOCCER sweatshirt. Send completed entries by JUNE 1, to:
WORLD SOCCER CROSSWORD (JUNE) King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London, SE1 9LS

LAST MONTH'S WINNERS:
Henrik Nielsen, Gudheem, Denmark. **Shamba Mutti,** Stockport. **Russell Chant**, Frome. **Matthew Seward**, Cardiff. **David Paton**, Victoria, Australia.

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION
ACROSS: 1. Trotta 3. Berg 7. Rosenthal 9. Lens 10. Wilson 12. Farina 13. Kahn 16. Cherenkov 17. Ohen 18. Furtok.
DOWN: 1. Tirol 2. Tena 4. Ellis Park 5. Green 6. Uhrin 8. Sanfrecce 11. Inter 12. Ferro 14. Novak 15. Peru.

CLUES ACROSS
7. .....AC Milan 'keeper (5)
8. .....Nation whose champions are Mohun Bagan – for the 23rd time (5)
9. .....Ex-PSV coach at last in charge of Holland (7)
10. .....Hungary's national stadium (3)
11. .....Cameroon international defender recently with Belenenses and Larissa (4)
13. .....Liberian star of PSG's European campaign (4)
17 .....Lodz club Polish champions in 1958 (1.1.1.)
18. .....Ex-Lech Poznan coach who followed Cmikiewicz as Poland's supremo (7)
20. .....Manchester United's Irish midfield man (5)
21 .....Midfielder of Juventus and Italy (5)

CLUES DOWN
1. .....Kaiserslautern's veteran German midfielder, once an Inter star (6)
2. .....Velez Sarsfield scorer and star man in Tokyo last December (4)
3. .....Young Croatian defender at the Wildparkstadion (5)
4. .....Coach who took SC Freiburg into the Bundesliga's top tier (5)
5. .....Danish club prominent in the 1994-95 UEFA Cup competition (6)
6. .....Nou .... – Home of Barcelona (4)
12. .....Ex-RC Liege man at the centre of UEFA's 'restraint of trade' lawsuit (6)
14. .....Vitesse Arnhem forward recruited to Arsenal (6)
15. .....National side recently managed by Yorath, Toshack and Smith (5)
16. .....Coach of Milan's European Cup winners, 1963 and 1969 (5)
17 .....Goalscorer of Nantes and France (4)
19 .....Coach who led Benfica's 1988 European Champions Cup campaign (4)



Compiled by Christine Ansell

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JUNE

AMERICAN AIRLINES DALLAS CUP XVI

THE American Airlines Dallas Cup is fast establishing itself as the world's premier youth soccer tournament.

This year, 172 teams from 28 countries travelled to Texas to compete in the 16th edition. They included top amateur sides from across the United States and professional club sides from around the world.

The highlight of the tournament is undoubtably the Under-19 Super Group. Last year Real Madrid demolished Germany's Kaiserslautern 8-0 in the final. This year, Sao Paulo from Brazil threatened to do the same to Italy's Milan.

A Sao Paulo side packed with young talent easily overcame Milan in a repeat of the World Club Cup Final contested by the clubs' senior sides in December 1993 in Tokyo.

The Brazilians were by far the best side in the tournament. Captain and sweeper Guido showed a maturity way beyond his years, and left-winger Alex looks an exceptional talent.

A 27th-minute goal from Edmilson, who already plays for the Sao Paulo senior side in the regional state league in Brazil, and an own goal from Milan defender Gianpaolo Castorini two minutes before half-time gave the Brazilians a commanding lead to take into the break. It could have been higher but Milan keeper Gabriele Aldegani did well to save Fabio's first-half penalty.

Bulgarian Krassimir Bogdanov pulled a goal back for Milan 14 minutes into the second half. But by then it was too late. Danish World Cup referee Peter Mikkelsen had already sent off Milan defender Claudio Mastrapasqua for elbowing the talented but temperamental Fabio. Minutes later Italian captain Christian Brocchi, an impressive performer on the left side of midfield for Milan, departed for a second bookable offence.

Nine-man Milan battled on in vain.

Sao Paulo were worthy winners, although collecting silverware was not the only purpose of their trip. The day before the final, the team minibus pulled up outside the tournament hotel. Players and coaches disembarked carrying TVs, microwaves and all manner of other electrical goods from what looked to have been a highly productive shopping trip . . .

That the final of the Under-19 Super Group was so one-sided was disappointing only in that the undoubted player of the tournament was denied a chance to shine.

Goals from Milan forward Francesco De Francesco had eased the Italians' path to the final and it was easy to see why many at Milanelo see the 17-year-old, who already trains with Milan's first team, as *the* great hope for the future.

The Tahuichi club, from Bolivia, again proved that they are capable of producing outstanding soccer talent. Although not a professional club, they fielded a team in the Super Group and were unlucky to go out, 3-2 after extra time, to Milan in the semi finals.

For the first time in recent years there was no English or Scottish representation in the Super Group, although Knowsley Youth, an amateur team from Merseyside, did well to reach the quarter-finals of the Under-19 group.

Tournament director Bill Stroube is already looking ahead to next year and hopes that either Manchester United or Arsenal will join Real Madrid, Milan and Sao Paulo, already confimed for next year's Super Group.

GAVIN HAMILTON

Celebration time . . . Sao Paulo with the trophy

Illusive . . . Sao Paulo's Fabio evades the challenge of Milan captain Brocchi

Star of the future . . . Milan's Francesco De Francesco

Under-19 Super Group
Sao Paulov Milan 2-1

Under-19 boys
Tecos UAG (Mex) v Karvina Vitkovice (Cze) 1-0

Under-17 boys
California Flyers (US) v Liga Deportiva Alajuelense (CR) 2-1 *(after extra time)*

Under-16 boys
Clovis United Heat (US) v CRSC Brigade (US) 2-1

Under-14 boys
Sparta Prague (Cze) v Club De Futbol Monterray (Mex) 2-1

Under-12 boys
Club De Futbol Monterray (Mex) v Jusa Wolves (US) *(3-2 on penalties)*

Under-19 girls
Australian National Team (Aus) v Texas Spirit (US) 2-1 *(after extra time)*

RESULTS

Versavel hat-trick as Anderlecht beat Lommel . . . Bayern penalised f

AUSTRIA

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 9

MIDWEEK

SALZBURG 1 (Jurcevic 73)
STURM GRAZ 1 (Prilasnig 90). **Att:** 14,000.

WEEKEND

LINZ 2 (Brunnmayr 2, 49)
ADMIRA WACKER 2 (Klausz 48, Panis 51). **Att:** 2,000.
VfB MODLING 0
LINZER ASK 1 (Buss 77). **Att:** 400.
FC TIROL 2 (Kirchler 54, Janeschitz 90)
RAPID WIEN 3 (Kuhbauer 26, Slivovski 42, Mandreko 82). **Att:** 8,000.
VORWARTS 1 (Krinner 22)
SALZBURG 1 (Glieder 68). **Att:** 8,000.
AUSTRIA WIEN 0
STURM GRAZ 0. **Att:** 3,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 16

MIDWEEK

AUSTRIAN CUP – 5TH RND

FAVORITNER AC 1 SV RIED 0
WORGL 2 RAPID WIEN 3
ST POLTEN 0 SALZBURG 2
SV STOCKERAU 0 LEOBEN 1
SV BRAUNAU 1 GRAZER AK 3
KUNDLE 0 AUSTRIA WIEN 2 *(Aet)*
HARDBERG 0 VORWARTS 0 *(Aet)*
Hardberg won on pens
SPITTAL 3 LINZER ASK 3 *(Aet)*
SV Spittal won on pens

WEEKEND

ADMIRA WACKER 2 (Schiener 7, H. Kogler 41)
AUSTRIA WIEN 1 Muller 80). **Att:** 3,000.
SALZBURG 1 (Kocijan 88)
FC TIROL 1 (Janeschitz 63). **Att:** 15,000.
LINZER ASK 3 (Weissenberger 8, 50, Russ 90)
LINZ 1 (Brunmayr 22). **Att:** 14,000.
RAPID WIEN 2 (Kuhbauer 36, Slivovski 66)
VfB MODLING 1 (Puskas 85). **Att:** 5,000.
STURM GRAZ 1 (Vastic 30)
VORWARTS 0. **Att:** 8,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 23

WEEKEND

LINZER ASK 1 (Sabitzer 79)
RAPID WIEN 2 (Jermanis 23, Mandreko 81). **Att:** 16,000.
VfB MODLING 0
SALZBURG 0. **Att:** 4,000.
FC TIROL 0
STURM GRAZ 1 (Schopp 14). **Att:** 5,000.
VORWARTS STEYR 1 (Krinner 63)
ADMIRA WACKER 0. **Att:** 2,000.
AUSTRIA WIEN 4 (Wagner 22, Mjelde 50, Pfeffer 70, Flogel 83)
LINZ 1 (Waldhor 83). **Att:** 2,200.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 30

WEEKEND

ADMIRA WACKER 1 (Mayrleb 16)
VORWARTS 0. **Att:** 600.
SALZBURG 2 (Jurcevic 17, Hasenhuttl 58)
VfB MODLING 0. **Att:** 11,000.
LINZ 1 (Brunmayr 7)
AUSTRIA WIEN 7 (Kogler 12, Prosenik 19, 40, 87, Mjelde 30, Flogel 36, 75). **Att:** 3,000.
RAPID WIEN 3 (Purk 12, Kuhbauer 33, Guggi 40)
LINZER ASK 0. **Att:** 13,000.
STURM GRAZ 3 (Schopp 12, Milanic 35, Haas 57)
FC TIROL 0. **Att:** 11,000.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Salzburg	27	10	15	2	36	18	35
Rapid Wien	27	14	6	7	46	41	34
Austria Wien	27	11	10	6	41	27	32
Sturm Graz	27	12	8	7	34	32	32
Linzer ASK	27	10	10	7	34	26	30
FC Tirol	27	11	6	10	42	35	28
Vorwarts	27	8	9	10	36	37	25
Admira	27	7	9	11	38	45	23
Linz	27	5	9	13	30	54	19
VfB Modling	27	3	6	18	22	44	12

BELGIUM

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 9

WEEKEND

LIERSE 0
STANDARD 0. **Att:** 7,500.
ANDERLECHT 0
ST TRUIDEN 1 (Vanhoudt 33). **Att:** 22,000.
BEVEREN 3 (Van Overtveld 11, 85, Koslov 73)
MECHELEN 0. **Att:** 4,500.
CERCLE BRUGES 1 (Lauwers 65)
GENT 1 (Siquet og 53). **Att:** 4,000.
LOMMEL 3 (Waligora 60, 63, Peeters 85)
RWDM 0. **Att:** 6,000.
SERAING 2 (Lawaree 12, Edmilson pen 71)
ANTWERP 0. **Att:** 3,000.
EENDRACHT AALST 0
CHARLEROI 0. **Att:** 7,000.
EKEREN 4 (Tahamata 7, Hofmans 9, 26, Abeels 30)
OOSTENDE 1 (Poppe 55). **Att:** 2,500.
FC LIEGE 1 (Kinet 2)
CLUB BRUGGE 1 (Verheyen 76). **Att:** 2,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 16

MIDWEEK

ANDERLECHT 3 (Versavel 31, 50 pen, 83)
LOMMEL 2 (Van Geneugden 30, Waligora 62). **Att:** 19,000.
CLUB BRUGGE 0
EKEREN 0. **Att:** 6,500.

WEEKEND

CERCLE BRUGES 3 (Renty 25, Lauwers 75, Lamaire 81)
FC LIEGE 0. **Att:** 2,500.
GENT 1 (Ramcic 14)
EKEREN 0. **Att:** 6,000.
STANDARD 0
EENDRACHT AALST 0. **Att:** 19,000.
MECHELEN 2 (Gysbrechts 80, Martens 89)
SERAING 1 (Wamberto 83). **Att:** 6,500.
RWDM 2 (Wuyts 17, S. Laeremans 57)
LIERSE 1 (Lehman 50). **Att:** 5,000.
ST TRUIDEN 0
BEVEREN 0. **Att:** 6,000.
ANTWERP 0
CLUB BRUGGE 1 (Vermant 55). **Att:** 10,000.
OOSTENDE 2 (Keshinro 52, Claesen 70)
LOMMEL 1 (Waligora 49). **Att:** 4,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 23

MIDWEEK

CHARLEROI 2 (Brogno 39, Casto 58)
ANDERLECHT 1 (Versavel 63). **Att:** 12,000.
CLUB BRUGGE 1 (De Brul 28)
LIERSE 0. **Att:** 6,500.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 30

WEEKEND

AALST 2 (De Bilde 28, Van Ankeren 35)
RWDM 0. **Att:** 7,200.
BEVEREN 2 (Meeusen 24, Van den Ende 32)
CHARLEROI 1 (Misse-Misse 63). **Att:** 3,000.
CLUB BRUGGE 2 (Claessens 80, De Boeck og 88)
MECHELEN 0. **Att:** 7,000.
LIERSE 3 (De Sousa 66, De Smet 89, Huysmans 90)
OOSTENDE 1 (Claesen 36). **Att:** 1,877.
LOMMEL 3 (Van Geneugden 19, 42, 84)
GENT 1 (Foguenne 63). **Att:** 6,000.
SERAING 3 (Denil 35, Vandenbergh 68, Lawaree 78)
ST TRUIDEN 0. **Att:** 2,000.
EKEREN 1 (Van de Walle pen 9)
CERCLE BRUGES 1 (Lauwers 58). **Att:** 2,500.
ANDERLECHT 2 (Degryse 34, Rutjes 37)
STANDARD 1 (Goossens 36). **Att:** 28,000.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Anderlecht	31	20	6	5	73	31	46
Standard	31	19	8	4	45	21	46
Club Brugge	31	19	7	5	64	27	45
Aalst	31	13	9	9	57	53	35
Ekeren	31	11	12	8	51	33	34
Lommel	31	12	8	11	40	36	32
Lierse	31	12	8	11	44	47	32
Seraing	31	11	9	11	49	41	31
Beveren	31	10	11	10	37	39	31
St Truiden	31	9	13	9	29	34	31
Charleroi	31	10	10	11	29	37	30
Ghent	31	11	7	13	38	46	29
Mechelen	31	10	8	13	38	42	28
RWDM	31	9	10	12	32	38	28
Cercle Bruges	31	8	9	14	38	48	25
Antwerp	30	8	6	16	38	49	22
Oostend	31	4	8	19	30	75	16
FC Liege	30	4	7	19	29	64	15

ENGLAND

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 9

MIDWEEK

LEEDS 4 (Yeboah 4, 35, 45, Speed 31)
IPSWICH 0. **Att:** 28,600.
LEICESTER 1 (Parker 48)
NORWICH 0. **Att:** 15,992.
QPR 0
BLACKBURN 1 (Sutton 67). **Att:** 16,508.
LIVERPOOL 3 (Rush 28, 53, Fowler pen 70)
SOUTHAMPTON 1 (Hall 14). **Att:** 29,881.
CRYSTAL PALACE 0
ASTON VILLA 0. **Att:** 12,606.

WEEKEND

NEWCASTLE 3 (Beardsley pen 8, 43, Kitson 75)
NORWICH 0. **Att:** 35,518.
NOTTM FOREST 1 (Collymore 79)
WEST HAM 1 (Dicks 66). **Att:** 28,361.
QPR 3 (Impey 27, Gallen 59, Ready 82)
ARSENAL 1 (Adams 89). **Att:** 16,341.
SHEFF WED 1 (Whittingham 38)
LEICESTER 0. **Att:** 22,551.
LIVERPOOL 0
LEEDS 1 (Deane 29). **Att:** 37,454.

FA CUP – SEMI FINALS

TOTTENHAM 1 (Klinsmann 63 pen)
EVERTON 4 (Jackson 35, Stuart 55, Amokachi 32, 89). **Att:** 38,226.
MAN UTD 2 (Irwin 70, Pallister 96)
CRYSTAL PALACE 2 (Dowie 33, Armstrong 92). **Att:** 38,256. *(Aet)*

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 16

MIDWEEK

TOTTENHAM 2 (Howells 53, Klinsmann 86)
MAN CITY 1 (Rosler 49). **Att:** 27,410.
CHELSEA 0
SOUTHAMPTON 2 (Shipperley 11, Le Tissier 33). **Att:** 16,738.
IPSWICH 0
QPR 1 (Ferdinand 68). **Att:** 11,767.
ARSENAL 0
LIVERPOOL 1 (Fowler 90). **Att:** 38,036.
WIMBLEDON 1 (Goodman 57)
CHELSEA 1 (Sinclair 37). **Att:** 7,022.
NORWICH 0
NOTTM FOREST 1 (Stone 85). **Att:** 19,005.
WEST HAM 3 (Dicks pen 40, Boere 76, Cottee 77)
WIMBLEDON 0. **Att:** 21,804.

FA CUP – SEMI-FINAL, REPLAY

MAN UTD 2 (Bruce 30, Pallister 4)
CRYSTAL PALACE 0. **Att:** 17,987.

WEEKEND

CRYSTAL PALACE 1 (Armstrong 41)
TOTTENHAM 1 (Klinsmann 87). **Att:** 18,149.
EVERTON 2 (Amokachi 22, 55)
NEWCASTLE 0. **Att:** 34,811.
MAN CITY 2 (Summerbee 18, McManaman 21)
LIVERPOOL 1 (Gaudino 73). **Att:** 27,055.
ARSENAL 4 (Merson 33, Wright 47, 50, 56)
IPSWICH 1 (Marshall 71). **Att:** 36,818.
CHELSEA 1 (Stein 41)
ASTON VILLA 0. **Att:** 17,015.
COVENTRY 2 (Dublin 3, Ndlovu 89)
SHEFF WED 0. **Att:** 15,710.
LEEDS 1 (Deane 90)
BLACKBURN 1 (Henry 45). **Att:** 39,426.
LEICESTER 0
MAN UTD 4 (Sharpe 34, Cole 45, 53, Ince 90). **Att:** 21,281.
SOUTHAMPTON 2 (Shipperley 49, Watson 67)
QPR 1 (Ferdinand 63). **Att:** 15,210.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 23

MIDWEEK

BLACKBURN 2 (Shearer 7, Henry 39)
MAN CITY 3 (Curle pen 32, Rosler 57, Walsh 71). **Att:** 27,851.
ASTON VILLA 0
ARSENAL 4 (Hartson 31, 87, Wright 32, 72 pen). **Att:** 32,005.
IPSWICH 1 (Thomsen 11)
WEST HAM 1 (Boere 90). **Att:** 19,099.
LIVERPOOL 2 (Fowler 75, Rush 80)
LEICESTER 0. **Att:** 36,012.
MAN UTD 0
CHELSEA 0. **Att:** 43,728.
NEWCASTLE 1 (Elliott 30)
LEEDS 2 (McAllister 25 pen, Yeboah 31). **Att:** 35,626.
NOTTM FOREST 2 (Woan 9, Collymore 42)
COVENTRY 0. **Att:** 26,253.
QPR 0
CRYSTAL PALACE 1 (Dowie 56). **Att:** 14,227.
SHEFFIELD WED 0
EVERTON 0. **Att:** 27,880.
TOTTENHAM 1 (Sheringham 36)
NORWICH 0. **Att:** 32,304.
WIMBLEDON 0
SOUTHAMPTON 2 (Le Tissier 9, Magilton 32). **Att:** 10,521.
BLACKBURN 2 (Kenna 47, Gallacher 51)
CRYSTAL PALACE 1 (Houghton 71). **Att:** 28,500. *(Played: 20/04/95)*

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 30

WEEKEND

ARSENAL 1 (Wright pen 61)
TOTTENHAM 1 (Klinsmann 74). **Att:** 39,377.
CHELSEA 1 (F. Sinclair 64)
QPR 0. **Att:** 21,704.
CRYSTAL PALACE 1 (Dowie 76)
NOTTM FOREST 2 (Roy 14, Collymore 63). **Att:** 15,886.
EVERTON 0
WIMBLEDON 0. **Att:** 33,063.
LEEDS 1 (Palmer 90)
ASTON VILLA 0 **Att:** 32,955.
LEICESTER 2 (Whitlow 67, Lowe 90)
IPSWICH 0. **Att:** 15,248.
MAN CITY 0
NEWCASTLE 0. **Att:** 27,389.
NORWICH 1 (Ullathorne 16)
LIVERPOOL 2 (Harkness 8, Rush 85). **Att:** 21,843.
SOUTHAMPTON 0
SHEFF WED 0. **Att:** 15,189.
WEST HAM 2 (Rieper 50, Hutchison 83)
BLACKBURN 0. **Att:** 24,202.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Blackburn	40	26	8	6	78	37	86
Man Utd	39	24	9	6	73	26	81
Nottm Forest	40	21	10	9	69	41	73
Liverpool	39	20	11	8	63	31	71
Newcastle	39	19	11	9	61	41	68
Leeds Utd	39	18	12	9	53	35	66
Tottenham	38	16	12	10	60	49	60
Wimbledon	40	15	9	16	46	63	54
QPR	39	15	8	16	56	56	53
Arsenal	40	13	11	16	51	47	50
Southampton	38	11	16	11	55	58	49
Chelsea	39	12	13	14	44	50	49
Man City	39	12	12	15	50	59	48
Sheffield Wed	40	12	12	16	45	55	48
Coventry	39	11	13	15	41	59	46
West Ham	38	12	9	17	40	46	45
Everton	38	10	14	14	40	48	44
Aston Villa	39	10	13	16	47	54	43
Crystal Palace	38	10	12	16	29	40	42
Norwich	40	10	12	18	35	51	42
Leicester	40	6	9	25	42	77	27
Ipswich	39	6	6	27	33	88	24

FRANCE

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 9

WEEKEND

LYON 1 (Roche 38)
LENS 1 (Magnier 8). **Att:** 22,125.
AUXERRE 0
MONTPELLIER 1 (Lefevre 57). **Att:** 7,000.
BASTIA 3 (Drobnjak pen 52, Rodriguez 65, Ziani 90)
LE HAVRE 2 (Caveglia 26, Dhorasso 54). **Att:** 5,000.
CAEN 0
MARTIGUES 1 (Tholot 70). **Att:** 13,436.
CANNES 4 (Horlaville 42, Kozniku 46, Micoud pen 53, Bedrossian 61)
ST ETIENNE 1 (Blanc pen 62). **Att:** 5,000.
METZ 2 (Zitelli 7, Vercruysse 63)
BORDEAUX 3 (Dogon 8, Fournier 13, 26). **Att:** 11,744.
MONACO 3 (Anderson da Silva 36, Djorkaeff 57, Dumas 81)
STRASBOURG 1 (Keller 27). **Att:** 3,500.
NANTES 2 (N'Doram 62, Ouedec pen 74)
SOCHAUX 0. **Att:** 23,000.
PARIS SG 2 (Nouma 24, Rai 90)
NICE 3 (Dieng 34 og, L. Sandjak 54, Chaouch 58). **Att:** 33,230.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 16

MIDWEEK

FRENCH CUP – SEMI-FINALS

PARIS SG 2 MARSEILLE 0
STRASBOURG 1 METZ 0

WEEKEND

LE HAVRE 1 (Caveglia pen 90)
CANNES 0. **Att:** 9,419.
MONTPELLIER 0
PARIS SG 3 (Sechet 46, Nouma 57, Rai 76). **Att:** 13,814.
BORDEAUX 1 (Gava 65)
LYON 1 (Grenet 89). **Att:** 20,000.
LENS 3 (Boli 10, Tiehi 50, Brunel 80)
BASTIA 0. **Att:** 27,137.
MARTIGUES 1 (Mazzoncini 27)
LILLE 0. **Att:** 10,500.
NICE 1 (Sandjak 44)
AUXERRE 3 (Fugen 51, Verlaat pen 78, Cocard 90). **Att:** 5,000.
ST ETIENNE 0
METZ 1 (Pouget 30). **Att:** 10,855.
SOCHAUX 0
MONACO 5 (Madar 42, Djorkaeff 45, Petersen 81, 88, Petit 83). **Att:** 2,500.
RENNES 5 (Wiltord 42, Ohrel 46, Grassi 57, 80, Gourvennec 88)
CAEN 0. **Att:** 9,487.
STRASBOURG 2 (Leboeuf 65, Mostovoi 87)
NANTES 0. **Att:** 19,534.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 30

WEEKEND

BASTIA 1 (Leclerc 3)
SOCHAUX 0. **Att:** 4,500.
CAEN 3 (Moreau og 16, Simba 62, Lemarchand 75)
ST ETIENNE 0. **Att:** 15,805.
CANNES 2 (Horlaville 65, 69)
STRASBOURG 2 (Gravelaine 2, 71). **Att:** 4,500.
LILLE 0
MONTPELLIER 0. **Att:** 7,000.
LYON 2 (Amoros pen 72, Gava 80)
LE HAVRE 0. At: 20,180.
METZ 0
NANTES 2 (N'Doram 53, Pedros 87). **Att:** 15,000.
MONACO 6 (Petersen 6, Henry 25, 4[illegible] Djorkaeff 70, 81, 90)
LENS 0. **Att:** 5,000.
NICE 1 (Tatarian 32)
RENNES 0. **Att:** 3,809.
PARIS SG 3 (Rai 60, Kombouare 86, Allou 90)
MARTIGUES 0. **Att:** 29,983.
AUXERRE 1 (Cocard 26)
BORDEAUX 0. **Att:** 9,000.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nantes	34	20	13	1	63	27	73
Lyon	33	17	11	5	51	32	62
Paris SG	33	18	6	9	53	32	60
Lens	34	14	13	7	43	36	55
Monaco	34	14	10	10	53	31	52
Cannes	34	15	7	12	47	33	52
Auxerre	34	11	17	6	50	33	50
Bordeaux	34	13	9	12	45	46	48
Le Havre	34	12	11	11	41	40	47
Strasbourg	34	12	11	11	41	40	47
Metz	33	13	7	13	41	40	46
Martigues	34	11	12	11	32	42	45
Bastia	34	10	9	15	34	48	39
Rennes	34	9	11	14	41	52	38
Nice	34	10	8	16	35	47	38
Lille	34	10	8	16	21	40	38
Montpellier	34	8	13	13	32	47	37
St Etienne	34	9	8	17	37	46	35
Caen	33	9	5	19	33	49	32
Sochaux	34	6	5	23	27	59	23

GERMANY

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 9

WEEKEND

VfL BOCHUM 0
HAMBURG 0. **Att:** 22,013.
BAYER UERDINGEN 4 (Passlack 9, 51, Laessig 40, Feldhoff 88)
VfB STUTTGART 1 (Dunga 61). **Att:** 8,800.
BAYER LEVERKUSEN 3 (Thorn 28, Stadler og 62, Sergio 90)
BORUSSIA MG 1 (Herrich 85). **Att:** 26,200.
BAYERN MUNICH 1 (Scholl 45)
KAISERSLAUTERN 1 (Kuntz 42). **Att:** 63,000.
DYNAMO DRESDEN 1 (Jahnig 15)
KOLN 3 (Labbadia 65, Greiner 70, Polster 90). **Att:** 12,500.
SC FREIBURG 3 (U. Spies 6, 86, Zeyer 22)
MSV DUISBURG 0. **Att:** 17,500.
KARLSRUHE 1 (Bilic 31)
EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 1 (Anicic 54). **Att:** 26,000.
SCHALKE 0

BOR. DORTMUND 0. Att: 70,925.
WERDER BREMEN 2 (Basler 74, A. Herzog 86)
1860 MUNICH 0. Att: 33,900.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 16

MIDWEEK

BORUSSIA DORTMUND 2 (Zorc pen 75, Sammer 86)
KARLSRUHE 1 (Metz 40). Att: 42,800.
HAMBURG 1 (Letchkov 43)
FREIBURG 2 (U. Spies 35, 84). Att: 28,000.
UERDINGEN 0
BAYER LEVERKUSEN 1 (Voller pen 18). Att: 14,000.

GERMAN CUP – SEMI-FINALS

KOLN 0 WOLFSBURG 1
BORUSSIA MG 1
KAISERSLAUTERN 0 (Aet)

WEEKEND

DUISBURG 0
BORUSSIA MG 2 (Herrlich 28, Andersson 39). Att: 25,000.
EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 2 (Okocha 14, Reis 43)
BAYERN MUNICH 5 (Schupp 6, Witeczek 44, Zeige 48, 83, Frey 80). Att: 59,000.
● *Result void because Bayern fielded too many amateur players. Bayern deducted 2pts, Eintracht added 2pts.*
KAISERSLAUTERN 3 (Kuntz 25, 86, Brehme pen 80)
DYNAMO DRESDEN 1 (Ekstrom 62). Att: 36,975.
KOLN 1 (Higl 90)
WERDER BREMEN 1 (Neubarth 68). Att: 36,000.
STUTTGART 1 (Bobic 85)
SCHALKE 1 (H. Herzog 76). Att: 21,000.
1860 MUNICH 4 (Rydlewicz 21, Winkler 29, 36, Trares 69)
BOCHUM 0. Att: 28,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 23

WEEKEND

BOCHUM 1 (Frontzeck 48)
KOLN 0. Att: 25,000.
BORUSSIA MG 2 (Herrlich 10, Fach 63)
HAMBURG 1 (Albertz 84). Att: 33,000.
KARLSRUHE 3 (Bonan 15, Fink 18, Hassler 33)
STUTTGART 1 (Elber 69). Att: 33,000.
BAYER LEVERKUSEN 2 (Lehnhoff 40, Voller 66)
DUISBURG 0. Att: 18,700.
BAYERN MUNICH 2 (Zickler 51, Ziege 69)
BORUSSIA DORTMUND 1 (Ricken 82). Att: 63,000.
DYNAMO DRESDEN 1 (Dittgen 37)
EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 2 (Binz 80, Anicic 87). Att: 12,200.
FREIBURG 1 (Spanring 54)
1860 MUNICH 1 (Nowak 41). Att: 17,500.
SCHALKE 2 (A. Muller 62, Mulder 81)
UERDINGEN 0. Att: 26,700.
WERDER BREMEN 2 (Bode 50, 60)
KAISERSLAUTERN 2 (Brehme 9, Marschall 17). Att: 39,184.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 30

WEEKEND

HAMBURG 3 (Hubchev 32, Ivanauskas 56, 88)
DUISBURG 0. At: 16,621.
KOLN 2 (Labbadia 24, Greiner 88)
FREIBURG 0. Att: 26,000.
BORUSSIA DORTMUND 2 (Tretschok 72, 90)
DYNAMO DRESDEN 0. Att: 42,800.
KAISERSLAUTERN 3 (Marschall 17, M. Hamann 35, Kuka 47)
BOCHUM 1 (Waldoch 74). Att: 37,075.
SCHALKE 3 (H. Herzog 47, 76, Eigenrauch 79)
LEVERKUSEN 2 (Voller 59, Kirsten 77). Att: 29,410.
STUTTGART 0
BAYERN MUNICH 2 (Scholl pen 42, Zickler 73). Att: 53,500.
1860 MUNICH 2 (Bodden 24, Dowe 73)
BORUSSIA MG 0. Att: 28,500.
BAYER UERDINGEN 0
KARLSRUHE 0. Att: 12,107.
EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 0
WERDER BREMEN 0. Att: 34,700.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bor Dortmund	28	17	7	4	56	25	41
Werder Bremen	28	16	8	4	52	28	40
Kaiserslautern	28	14	11	3	43	29	39
SC Freiburg	28	16	5	7	56	39	37
Borussia Mg	28	15	6	7	56	34	36
Bayern Munich	28	11	13	4	46	36	35
Karlsruhe	28	9	12	7	38	34	30
Leverkusen	28	10	8	10	48	41	28
Koln	28	10	8	10	45	43	28
Schalke	28	9	10	9	39	38	28
Ein. Frankfurt	28	9	9	10	31	40	27
Hamburg	28	9	8	11	37	35	26
VfB Stuttgart	28	8	9	11	45	53	25
1860 Munich	28	6	9	13	33	48	21
Uerdingen	28	4	11	13	27	39	19
VfL Bochum	28	7	3	18	30	58	17
MSV Duisburg	28	4	7	17	20	51	15
Dyn. Dresden	28	3	6	19	24	55	12

● *Bayern Munich deducted 2pts.*
● *Eintracht Frankfurt given 2pts.*

HOLLAND

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 9

WEEKEND

RODA JC 1 (De Kock pen 30)
HEERENVEEN 0. Att: 8,500.
DORDRECHT 1 (Wouden 65)
NEC 0. Att: 3,500.
AJAX 7 (Litmanen 6, 21, Kanu 8, George 13, Seedorf 24, Frank de Boer 76, Ronald de Boer 77)
WILLEM II 0. Att: 18,875.
NAC 1 (Abdellaoui 73)
FEYENOORD 2 (Obiku 83, Blinker 87). Att: 10,504.
PSV 4 (Ronaldo 51, 71, 87, Meijer 88)
UTRECHT 0. Att: 24,300.
RKC 1 (Petrov 50)
MVV 1 (Roelofsen pen 72). Att: 3,500.
SPARTA 1 (Groenendijk 55)
GA EAGLES 2 (Schenning 45, Valk 81). Att: 4,500.
TWENTE 2 (Bosvelt 21, Platvoet 34)
VOLENDAM 0. Att: 6,400.
VITESSE 0
GRONINGEN 0. Att: 5,743.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 16

WEEKEND

GA EAGLES 5 (Decheiver 28, 90, Valk 37, De Gier 50, Heering 87)
NAC 1 (Arnold 58). Att: 5,750.
MVV 2 (Roelofsen 13, 33)
PSV 3 (Faber 14, Nilis 46, Ronaldo 60). Att: 8,800.
HEERENVEEN 1 (Meijer 87)
DORDRECHT 1 (Lerns 82). Att: 13,100.
GRONINGEN 2 (Gorre 63, Sion 76)
AJAX 4 (Kluivert 13, 39, Frank de Boer 22, Overmars 70). Att: 16,280.
FEYENOORD 0
TWENTE 3 (Bruggink 20, Hoogma 31, Vurens 67). Att: 32,454.
NEC 1 (Lok 27)
SPARTA 1 (Van den Berg 74). Att: 2,900.
UTRECHT 1 (Gorter 35)
VITESSE 4 (Simons 37, Korsten 40, Makaay 52, Cocu 75). Att: 6,000.
VOLENDAM 0
RKC 2 (Van Arum 9, Van Rijswijk 71). Att: 3,000.
WILLEM II 0
RODA JC 0. Att: 7,491.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 23

WEEKEND

GA EAGLES 3 (Schenning 9, Arts 44, Schenning)
NEC 2 (Cruden pen 26, Lok 53). Att: 6,050.
VOLENDAM 0
UTRECHT 1 (Hofstede 62). Att: 2,900.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 30

WEEKEND

NAC 2 (Lammers 14, 67)
TWENTE 1 (Mols 19). Att: 9,500.
PSV 1 (Numan 60)
VOLENDAM 1 (Smeets 36). Att: 24,600.
RODA JC 2 (De Kock pen 51, Graef 88)
GRONINGEN 1 (Gorre 64). Att: 9,000.
RKC 2 (Petrov 20, Brands 37)
FEYENOORD 1 (Taument 6). Att: 5,200.
SPARTA 2 (Van den Berg 53, Krijgsman 75)
HEERENVEEN 0. Att: 3,750.
VITESSE 2 (Simons 43, Vermeulen 47)
MVV 1 (Lanckohr 75). Att: 5,321.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ajax	29	22	7	0	89	25	51
Roda JC	30	19	9	2	54	23	47
PSV Eindhoven	30	18	7	5	74	36	43
FC Twente	30	17	7	6	62	40	41
Feyenoord	30	17	5	8	60	44	39
Vitesse Arnhem	30	13	11	6	49	36	37
Willem II	30	12	8	10	40	40	32
RKC Waalwijk	30	10	9	11	40	42	29
Heerenveen	30	10	6	14	43	54	26
Volendam	30	7	12	11	29	41	26
NAC Breda	30	9	7	14	46	53	25
Groningen	30	8	9	13	43	54	25
Utrecht	29	7	9	13	35	51	23
Sparta	30	7	8	15	37	54	22
MVV Maastricht	30	7	7	16	36	59	21
NEC Nijmegen	30	6	7	17	40	57	19
GA Eagles	30	4	9	17	32	69	17
Dordrecht	30	4	7	19	29	60	15

ITALY

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 9

WEEKEND

BARI 2 (Marcio Santos og 23, Protti 33)
FIORENTINA 2 (Carnasciali 40, Carbone 76). Att: 20,800.
BRESCIA 1 (Laias og 4)
PADOVA 3 (Galderisi 3, Maniero 65, Kreek 86). Att: 8,282.
CAGLIARI 2 (Pusceddu 9, Valdes 66)
FOGGIA 1 (Cappellini 63). Att: 15,000.
INTER 2 (Delvecchio 30, Sosa 75)
GENOA 0. Att: 36,000.
JUVENTUS 1 (Maltagliati og 22)
TORINO 2 (Rizzitelli 6, 33). Att: 45,000.
LAZIO 2 (Rambaudi 54, Signori 77)
REGGIANA 0. Att: 46,372.
NAPOLI 0
AS ROMA 0. Att: 50,000.
PARMA 2 (Zola pen 41, 83)
MILAN 3 (Lentini 4, Simone pen 14, 52). Att: 26,000.
SAMPDORIA 2 (Mancini 13, Jugovic 84)
CREMONESE 1 (Chiesa pen 55). Att: 27,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 16

MIDWEEK

ITALIAN CUP – SEMI-FINALS, 2ND LEG

JUVENTUS 2 LAZIO 1
Juventus won 3-1 on agg
PARMA 3 FOGGIA 1
Parma won 4-2 on agg

WEEKEND

CREMONESE 0
BARI 0. Att: 7,264.
FIORENTINA 4 (Sottil 17, Marcio Santos 49, Batistuta 56, Cois 73)
NAPOLI 0. Att: 33,316.
FOGGIA 0
PARMA 0. Att: 11,816.
GENOA 1 (Valdes 63)
CAGLIARI 1 (Skuhravy 75). Att: 19,335.
INTER 3 (Seno 43, Jonk 69, Berti 87)
MILAN 1 (Stroppa 84). Att: 57,962.
PADOVA 2 (Cravero og 44, Kreek 90)
LAZIO 0. Att: 13,654.
REGGIANA 1 (Padovano pen 26)
JUVENTUS 2 (Baggio 6, 47). Att: 22,662.
AS ROMA 3 (Totti 5, Cappioli 17, Balbo pen 79)
BRESCIA 0. Att: 47,952.
TORINO 0
SAMPDORIA 0. Att: 19,942.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 23

WEEKEND

BARI 3 (Amoruso 41, Protti 52, Guerrero 61)
BRESCIA 0. Att: 16,212.
CAGLIARI 4 (Oliveira 18, 84, Muzzi 25, 69)
REGGIANA 2 (Padovano 38, Futre 77). Att: 14,459.
CREMONESE 4 (Chiesa 39, 68 pen, Tentoni 77, 90)
GENOA 1 (Marcolin pen 49). Att: 7,000.
JUVENTUS 0
PADOVA 1 (Kreek 77). Att: 40,308.
MILAN 5 (Savicevic 20, Simone 22, Lentini 62, Donadoni 69, 85)
TORINO 1 (Rizzitelli 32). Att: 12,000.
NAPOLI 2 (Cruz 25, Bianchini og 74)
FOGGIA 1 (Biagioni 43). Att: 35,000.
PARMA 3 (Sensini 55, 83, Zola 75)
INTER 0. Att: 24,787.
AS ROMA 0
LAZIO 2 (Casiraghi 31, Signori pen 71). Att: 73,893.
SAMPDORIA 2 (Gullit 10, 72)
FIORENTINA 2 (Batistuta 76, Baiano 78). Att: 30,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 30

WEEKEND

BRESCIA 1 (Neri 10)
PARMA 2 (Zola 6, 77 pen). Att: 8,229.
FIORENTINA 1 (Batistuta 70)
JUVENTUS 4 (Vialli 7, Baggio pen 68, Ravanelli 85, Marocchi 87). Att: 2,506.
FOGGIA 2 (Di Biagio 16, Ricci og 78)
BARI 2 (Pedone 9, 43). Att: 15,574.
GENOA 2 (Van't Schip 68) Skuhravy pen 76)
SAMPDORIA 1 (Platt 53). Att: 26,626.
INTER 0
CREMONESE 0. Att: 40,000.
LAZIO 0
CAGLIARI 0. Att: 43,013.
PADOVA 0
AS ROMA 0. Att: 15,369.
REGGIANA 0
MILAN 4 (Lentini 7, De Napoli og 33, Savicevic 68, Simone 83). Att: 14,424.
TORINO 1 (Rizzitelli 89)
NAPOLI 1 (Buso 31). Att: 19,248.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	29	20	4	5	48	25	64
Parma	29	16	8	5	47	26	56
Milan	29	14	9	6	47	29	51
AS Roma	29	13	10	6	34	20	49
Lazio	29	14	6	9	59	33	48
Internazionale	29	12	9	8	30	24	45
Fiorentina	29	11	10	8	53	45	44
Cagliari	29	11	10	8	35	32	43
Torino	29	11	8	10	35	37	41
Sampdoria	29	10	10	9	43	32	40
Napoli	29	9	12	8	34	41	39
Bari	29	10	7	12	33	37	37
Padova	29	11	3	15	32	50	36
Genoa	29	8	8	13	29	44	32
Cremonese	29	8	7	14	25	30	31
Foggia	29	7	9	13	29	41	30
Reggiana	29	3	5	21	20	46	14
Brescia	29	2	6	21	15	56	12

PORTUGAL

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 9

WEEKEND

BENFICA 2 (Mauro Airez og 6, Isaias 18)
BELENENSES 1 (Mauro Airez 75). Att: 3,000.
VIT SETUBAL 1 (Sergio Araujo 83)
SPORTING LISBON 1 (Mauro Aurelio 84). Att: 10,000.
BEIRA-MAR 1 (Carlos Costa 15)
SALGUEIROS 2 (Edmilsson 40, Tulipa 59). Att: 6,830.
SPORTING BRAGA 0
TIRSENSE 0. Att: 7,230.
CHAVES 1 (Edinho pen 85)
MARITIMO 1 (Paulo Duarte 44). Att: 5,000.
GIL VICENTE 2 (Ze da Rocha 60, Cacioli 65)
GUIMARAES 2 (Gilmar 25, Ricardo 81). Att: 6,300.
UNIAO LEIRIA 1 (Gervino 1)
AMADORA 0. Att: 8,000.
UNIAO MADEIRA 1 (Marcio Luis 56)
BOAVISTA 1 (Artur 67). Att: 5,000.
FC PORTO 2 (Domingos pen 31, Folha 88)
FARENSE 0. Att: 40,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 16

MIDWEEK

PORTUGUESE CUP – QUARTER-FINAL, REPLAY

VIT SETUBAL 2 BENFICA 0

WEEKEND

BOAVISTA 0
VITORIA SETUBAL 0. Att: 3,000.
ESTRELA 0
BENFICA 0. Att: 4,000.
FARENSE 2 (Hassan Nader 34, Jorge Soares 64)
GIL VICENTE 0. Att: 5,000.
SPORTING LISBON 4 (Balakov 37, Yordanov 59, 63, Sa Pinto 78)
UNIAO LEIRIA 0. Att: 2,000.
MARITIMO 1 (Alex Bunbury 79)
BRAGA 1 (Helder 86). Att: 7,000.
SALGUEIROS 0
UNIAO MADEIRA 2 (Simic 41, Marcio Luis 90). Att: 4,000.
TIRSENSE 2 (Marcelo Cipriano 31, Caetano 39)
BEIRA-MAR 0. Att: 3,000.
GUIMARAES 1 (Gilmar 89)
CHAVES 0. Att: 7,500.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 23

MIDWEEK

BELENENSES 0
FC PORTO 2 (Domingos 25, Latapy 48). Att: 7,000.

WEEKEND

TIRSENSE 1 (Rui Gregorio 4)
VITORIA SETUBAL 0. Att: 2,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 30

WEEKEND

UNIAO LEIRIA 1 (Reinaldo 70)
BOAVISTA 1 (Sanchez 89). Att: 2,000.
BEIRA-MAR 2 (Cabral 42, Miguel Barros 80)
SPORTING BRAGA 0. Att: 6,500.
BENFICA 1 (Dimas 23)
SPORTING LISBON 2 (Balakov 9, Yordanov 11). Att: 30,000.
CHAVES 1 (Hassan Nader 85)
FARENSE 2 (Djukic 66, Edinho pen 88). Att: 5,000.
GIL VICENTE 1 (Lito 85)
BELENENSES 1 (Mauro Airez 43). Att: 4,320.
UNIAO MADEIRA 1 (Beto pen 63)
TIRSENSE 1 (Cabral 88). Att: 5,300.
FC PORTO 0
ESTRELA AMADORA 0. Att: 1,500.
GUIMARAES 0
MARITIMO 0. Att: 3,000.
VITORIA SETUBAL 1 (S Araujo 21)
SALGUEIROS 2 (Tulipa 13, 67). Att: 8,200.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Porto	30	25	4	1	62	12	54
Sporting Lisbon	30	21	8	1	54	17	50
Benfica	30	18	4	8	50	27	40
Guimaraes	30	15	8	7	48	37	38
Tirsense	31	14	6	11	34	26	34
Leiria	30	11	9	10	36	39	31
Boavista	30	12	7	11	35	38	31
Farense	30	13	5	12	35	36	31
Maritimo	30	10	10	10	33	36	30
Salgueiros	30	11	5	14	40	43	27
Braga	30	9	8	13	29	41	26
Amadora	30	6	12	12	25	35	24
Gil Vicente	30	7	10	13	27	36	24
Chaves	30	8	8	14	28	44	23
Belenenses	30	8	7	15	26	32	23
Madeira	30	6	9	15	26	46	21
Beira-Mar	30	8	4	18	29	46	20
Setubal	31	2	11	18	21	43	15

SCOTLAND

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 9

MIDWEEK

PARTICK 3 (Pittman 64, McDonald 74, McWilliams 80)
HEARTS 1 (Millar 7). Att: 5,500.

WEEKEND

FALKIRK 3 (Johnston 47, Kirk 79, McDonald 90)
DUNDEE UTD 1 (Sergio 32). Att: 5,894.
RANGERS 3 (Durrant 19, Murray 24, Hateley 52)
ABERDEEN 2 (Dodds 32, Shearer 45). Att: 44,460.
MOTHERWELL 1 (Burns 27)
PARTICK THISTLE 2 (Cameron 12, Craig 49). Att: 9,631.

SCOTTISH CUP – SEMI FINALS

HIBERNIAN 0
CELTIC 0. Att: 40,950.
AIRDRIE 1 (Cooper 29)
HEARTS 0 Att: 22,538.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 16

MIDWEEK

KILMARNOCK 3 (Whitworth 1, 60, Henry 17)
HEARTS 2 (Cramb 28, Jamieson 85). Att: 7,239.

SCOTTISH CUP – SEMI-FINAL, REPLAY

CELTIC 3 (Falconer 31, Collins 45, O'Donnell 82)
HIBERNIAN 1 (Wright 63). Att: 32,410.

WEEKEND

ABERDEEN 2 (Shearer 30, Irvine 41)
CELTIC 0. Att: 14,500.
DUNDEE UTD 1 (Petric 17)
KILMARNOCK 2 (Whitworth 32, Henry 86). Att: 8,723.
FALKIRK 3 (Kirk 7, Weir 51, Fulton 89)
MOTHERWELL 0. Att: 5,790.
HEARTS 1 (Dinnie 53)
PARTICK THISTLE 0. Att: 9,007.
RANGERS 3 (Durie 24, Durrant 85, Mikhailichenko 87)
HIBERNIAN 1 (O'Neill 39). Att: 44,193.

RESULTS

Rangers retain Scottish title . . . Athletic Bilbao win 4-1 at Real Zar

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 23

MIDWEEK

MOTHERWELL 2 (McSkimming 36, Arnott 58)
ABERDEEN 1 (Dodds 42). **Att:** 7,155.
PARTICK THISTLE 1 (Pittman 19)
DUNDEE UTD 3 (Hannah 6, Welsh 66, 79). **Att:** 5,500.
CELTIC 0
HEARTS 1 (Hagen 86). **Att:** 18,638.
HIBERNIAN 0
FALKIRK 2 (Clark 15, McDonald 90). **Att:** 5,455.
KILMARNOCK 0
RANGERS 1 (Mikhailichenko 38). **Att:** 16,086.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 30

WEEKEND

DUNDEE UTD 0
HIBERNIAN 1 (McGinlay 90). **Att:** 8,376.
FALKIRK 1 (Rice pen 49)
CELTIC 2 (O'Donnel 5, Boyd 79). **Att:** 9,912.
RANGERS 0
MOTHERWELL 2 (Arnott 12, McSkimming 80). **Att:** 43,576.
HEARTS 1 (McPherson 64)
ABERDEEN 2 (Dodds pen 61, 85). **Att:** 11,466.
KILMARNOCK 0
PARTICK THISTLE 0. **Att:** 9,201.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	34	20	8	6	59	31	68
Motherwell	34	13	12	9	48	48	51
Falkirk	34	12	11	11	48	45	47
Hibernian	33	10	16	7	43	34	46
Celtic	32	9	17	6	35	30	44
Kilmarnock	34	11	10	13	39	44	43
Hearts	34	11	7	16	41	48	40
Partick Thistle	34	9	11	14	37	50	38
Dundee Utd	34	9	9	16	39	53	36
Aberdeen	34	8	11	15	39	45	35

SPAIN

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 9

WEEKEND

REAL BETIS 2 (Marquez 61, Alexis 71 pen)
ATLETICO MADRID 0. **Att:** 30,000.
ALBACETE 1 (Morientes 49)
ESPANYOL 1 (Lardin 14). **Att:** 13,000.
ATHLETIC BILBAO 2 (Ciganda 19, Garitano pen 48)
RACING SANTANDER 0. **Att:** 40,000.
BARCELONA 1 (Stoichkov 61)
REAL SOCIEDAD 1 (Imaz 90). **Att:** 80,000.
CELTA VIGO 0
VALENCIA 0. **Att:** 25,000.
LA CORUNA 4 (Bebeto 6, 32, 75, Fran 78)
TENERIFE 1 (Juanele 48). **Att:** 28,000.
SPORTING GIJON 3 (Pier 48, Hugo Perez 74, Saric 87)
SEVILLA 0. **Att:** 22,000.
LOGRONES 0
COMPOSTELA 4 (Passi 27, Ohen 69, Villena 72, Moure 80). **Att:** 7,000.
REAL MADRID 3 (Raul 20, Zamorano 76, Dubovsky 80)
REAL ZARAGOZA 0. **Att:** 106,000.
REAL VALLADOLID 2 (Nilson 17, Urban 73)
REAL OVIEDO 1 (Oli 65). **Att:** 20,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 16

WEEKEND

ATLETICO MADRID 0
REAL MADRID 2 (Zamorano 30, 71). **Att:** 60,000.
REAL ZARAGOZA 3 (Aguado 17, Poyet 35, Esnaider 76)
LOGRONES 0. **Att:** 12,000.
COMPOSTELA 0
ALBACETE 0. **Att:** 8,000.
ESPANYOL 3 (Francisco 43, Pacheta 53, Lardin 55)
ATHLETIC BILBAO 1 (Valverde 14). **Att:** 20,000.
REAL OVIEDO 0
BARCELONA 0. **Att:** 19,000.
RACING SANTANDER 0
SPORTING GIJON 0. **Att:** 16,000.
SEVILLA 1 (Juanito 68)
REAL VALLADOLID 0. **Att:** 25,000.
REAL SOCIEDAD 1 (Imanol 49)
LA CORUNA 3 (Fran 30, 54, Bebeto 81). **Att:** 20,000.
TENERIFE 3 (Tamis 44, Pizzi 69, Conte 75)
CELTA VIGO 0. **Att:** 13,000.
VALENCIA 2 (Raul 10, Poyatos 83)
REAL BETIS 1 (Vidakovic pen 85). **Att:** 45,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 23

WEEKEND

REAL MADRID 3 (Zamorano 25, 72, Hierro pen 35)
VALENCIA 1 (Penev pen 75). **Att:** 85,000.
ALBACETE 0
REAL ZARAGOZA 3 (Esnaider 51, Higuera 65, Pardeza 87). **Att:** 10,000.
ATHLETIC BILBAO 1 (Iru og 50)
COMPOSTELA 0. **Att:** 25,000.
BARCELONA 4 (Cruyff 8, 57, Beguiristain 39, Amor 78)
REAL VALLADOLID 1 (Alberto 88). **Att:** 75,000.
REAL BETIS 3 (Rios 15, Cuellar 28, 67)
TENERIFE 0. **Att:** 35,000.
CELTA VIGO 2 (Merino 36, Pikabea 43)
REAL SOCIEDAD 1 (Sanchez 50). **Att:** 25,000.
LA CORUNA 2 (Salinas 35, Bebeto 39)
REAL OVIEDO 2 (Oli 48, Prosinecki 85). **Att:** 25,000.
SPORTING GIJON 0
ESPANYOL 0. **Att:** 21,800.
LOGRONES 0
ATLETICO MADRID 0. **Att:** 10,000.
RACING SANTANDER 0
SEVILLA 3 (Moacir 45, Moya 81, Linde 89). **Att:** 14,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 30

WEEKEND

REAL ZARAGOZA 1 (Pardeza 65)
ATHLETIC BILBAO 4 (Valverde 39, 83, Larrazabal pen 52, Guerrero 88). **Att:** 25,000.
ATLETICO MADRID 4 (Caminero 26, Kosecki 65, 82, Geli 69)
ALBACETE 0. **Att:** 40,000.
COMPOSTELA 3 (Ohen 3, Bellido 34, Moure 86)
GIJON 2 (Sabou 57, Pablo 58). **Att:** 13,000.
ESPANYOL 2 (Luis 4, Arteaga 74)
SANTANDER 0. **Att:** 25,000.
OVIEDO 2 (Rivas 57, Magueda 74)
CELTA VIGO 2 (Gil 36, Villanova 87). **Att:** 18,000.
SEVILLA 4 (Sergi og 23, Monchu 40, 61, Soler 82)
BARCELONA 2 (Koeman pen 13, Abelardo 72). **Att:** 45,000.
REAL SOCIEDAD 1 (Kodro 22)
REAL BETIS 1 (Vidakovic pen 4). **Att:** 20,000.
TENERIFE 0
REAL MADRID 1 (Zamorano 29). **Att:** 22,000.
VALENCIA 3 (Penev 56, 79, Romero 74)
LOGRONES 0. **Att:** 48,000.
REAL VALLADOLID 0
LA CORUNA 0. **Att:** 8,000.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	31	20	8	3	69	22	48
La Coruna	31	15	10	6	49	28	40
Barcelona	31	15	8	8	51	40	38
Real Betis	31	12	13	6	38	20	37
Real Zaragoza	31	16	5	10	45	39	37
Sevilla	31	14	8	9	43	32	36
Espanyol	31	12	11	8	39	28	35
Athletic Bilbao	31	12	10	9	30	29	34
Valencia	31	11	10	10	43	36	32
Real Oviedo	31	10	12	9	38	34	32
Tenerife	31	12	7	12	45	43	31
Real Sociedad	31	8	12	11	42	42	28
Compostela	31	9	10	12	33	39	28
Celta Vigo	31	8	12	11	27	40	28
Atletico Madrid	31	10	7	14	44	44	27
Santander	31	10	6	15	33	42	26
Sporting Gijon	31	7	12	12	36	52	26
Albacete	31	6	13	12	34	49	25
Real Valladolid	31	6	9	16	20	55	21
Logrones	31	1	9	21	9	55	11

SWITZERLAND

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 9

MIDWEEK

SWISS CUP – 4TH RND

FC WIL 3 FC TUGGEN 0

WEEKEND

GRASSHOPPER 1 (Subiat 26)
AARAU 0. **Att:** 6,100.
LAUSANNE 0
LUGANO 1 (Englund 63). **Att:** 3,500.
LUCERNE 2 (Kurniawan 23, Wolf 59)
FC BASEL 1 (Hertig 77). **Att:** 16,500.
NEUTCHATEL XAMAX 0
SION 2 (Kunz 58, Fournier 69). **Att:** 7,800.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 16

WEEKEND

AARAU 1 (Rathino 70)
NEUCHATEL XAMAX 1 (Aleksandrov 39). **Att:** 4,200.
FC BASEL 5 (Zuffie pen 15, 90, Moser 45, 78, Yakin 61)
LAUSANNE 0. **Att:** 15,000.
LUGANO 0
LUCERNE 0. **Att:** 4,200.
SION 1 (Assis 86)
GRASSHOPPER 1 (Willems 29). **Att:** 10,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 23

WEEKEND

SWISS CUP – 5TH ROUND

DOMDIDIER 0 SCHAFFH'SEN 1
FC FREIENBACH 0 SION 9
GRASSHOPPER 1 LUGANO 0
FC GRENCHEN 0 DELEMONT 2
LUCERNE 2 FC BASEL 0
FC WIL 1 FC ZURICH 0
CHENOIS 2 BELLINZONA 3 *(Aet)*
YOUNG BOYS 1 SERVETTE 1
Aet, Young Boys won on pens

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 30

WEEKEND

AARAU 2 (Wyss 25, Kucharski 82)
FC SION 1 (Bonvin 85). **Att:** 3,700.
GRASSHOPPER 2 (Willems 5, Rzasa 19)
NEUTCHATEL XAMAX 0. **Att:** 4,100.
LAUSANNE 0
LUCERNE 1 (Wyss 77). **Att:** 2,500.
LUGANO 4 (Colombo 10, 38, Manfreda 19, Galvao 56)
FC BASEL 1 (Tabakovic 55). **Att:** 4,500.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Grasshopper	7	5	1	1	14	5	27
Lugano	6	2	3	1	8	6	20
Aarau	7	2	2	3	7	8	19
Lucerne	7	4	1	2	7	7	19
Basle	6	4	0	2	12	7	18
Sion	6	2	1	3	8	12	17
Neuchatel	6	1	2	3	3	7	16
Lausanne	7	1	0	6	6	15	14

● *includes half-phase pts total*

EUROPEAN TABLES

DENMARK

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brondby	7	2	3	2	12	10	21
Aalborg	7	2	3	2	13	10	20
Silkeborg	7	4	2	1	14	5	19
Lyngby	7	4	1	2	12	12	19
Odense	7	1	2	4	6	13	16
Naestved	7	1	4	2	8	8	15
FC Copenhagen	7	2	3	2	11	13	15
Aarhus	7	2	2	3	8	13	14

● *Points include those carried over from the autumn season.*

LUXEMBOURG

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Grevenmacher	19	14	3	2	33	11	31
Jeunesse Esch	19	12	5	2	56	16	29
Avenir Beggen	19	11	3	5	58	27	25
F91 Dudelange	19	10	3	6	38	30	23
Union	19	8	5	6	36	22	21
FC Wiltz	19	6	7	6	31	36	19
Aris Bonnevoie	19	6	5	8	33	36	17
Spora	19	5	6	8	28	31	16
Red Boys	19	5	5	9	38	49	15
CS Petange	19	5	5	9	19	36	15
Swift Hesperange	19	4	3	12	28	56	11
Wormeldange	19	1	4	14	11	58	6

NORTHERN IRELAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Crusaders	29	20	6	3	56	23	66
Glenavon	29	17	6	6	72	38	57
Portadown	29	15	5	9	57	37	50
Glentoran	29	14	7	8	51	39	49
Cliftonville	29	13	10	6	42	30	49
Coleraine	29	12	12	5	52	39	48
Ards	29	14	5	10	53	42	47
Linfield	29	11	10	8	46	32	43
Omagh	29	10	12	7	40	31	42
Distillery	29	11	6	12	42	47	39
Bangor	29	8	14	7	42	36	38
Ballymena	29	7	7	15	43	53	28
Carrick	29	7	7	15	45	73	28
Newry	29	4	9	16	34	71	21
Ballyclare	29	4	6	19	32	64	18
Larne	29	2	4	23	16	68	10

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dundalk	33	17	8	8	41	25	59
Derry City	33	16	10	7	45	30	58
Shelbourne	33	16	9	8	45	32	57
Bohemians	33	14	11	8	48	30	53
St Patrick's	33	13	14	6	53	36	53
Shamrock	33	14	9	10	45	36	51
Cork City	33	15	4	14	55	42	49
Sligo Rovers	33	12	7	14	43	42	43
Galway Utd	33	10	9	14	39	53	39
Athlone Town	33	6	14	13	31	44	32
Cobh Ramblers	33	5	11	17	29	51	26
Monaghan	33	5	4	24	22	75	19

WALES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bangor City	38	27	7	4	96	25	88
Afan Lido	38	24	7	7	60	36	79
Ton Pentre	38	23	98	7	84	50	77
Newtown AFC	38	20	8	10	78	47	68
Cwmbran Town	38	20	7	11	69	49	67
Fflint Town Utd	38	20	3	14	77	60	63
Barry Town	38	15	11	11	71	57	59
Holywell Town	38	16	10	12	62	55	58
Llansantffraid	38	15	10	13	57	57	55
Inter Cardiff	38	14	11	13	58	43	53
Rhyl FC	38	16	5	17	74	69	53
Conwy Utd	38	14	7	17	59	65	45
Ebbw Vale	38	12	9	17	51	57	45
Caersws	38	11	11	16	57	64	44
Connah's Quay	38	12	7	19	57	79	43
Porthmadog	38	11	7	20	57	73	40
Aberystwyth	38	9	12	17	57	75	39
Llanelli AFC	38	10	6	22	64	104	36
Mold Alexandra	38	10	5	25	57	90	34
Maesteg Park	38	2	6	30	23	113	12

ALBANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tirana	26	18	5	3	49	21	41
Albpetrol	26	12	5	9	31	34	29
Shkumbini	26	10	8	8	27	16	28
Partizani	26	11	6	9	32	26	28
Flamurtari	26	10	8	8	29	25	28
Shqiponja	26	9	8	9	34	30	26
Vllaznia	26	11	4	11	26	23	26
Beselidhja	26	10	6	10	24	25	26
Tomori	26	10	6	10	18	20	26
Dinamo	26	8	9	9	27	24	25
Teuta	26	10	5	11	27	24	25
Elbasani	26	8	8	10	19	19	24
Apolonia	26	9	6	11	25	31	24
Laci	26	11	2	13	25	35	24
Besa	26	10	2	14	26	36	22
Iliria	26	6	2	18	14	44	14

CROATIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Croatia	24	16	5	3	41	17	53
Osijek	24	14	8	2	54	21	50
Hajduk Split	24	13	8	3	49	21	47
Zagreb	24	11	10	3	33	20	43
Marsonia	24	10	7	7	29	21	37
Varteks	24	10	6	8	27	18	36
Inker	24	9	4	11	35	32	31
Sibenik	24	7	9	8	32	36	30
Segesta	24	8	5	11	27	27	29
Cibalia	24	7	8	9	19	25	29
Rijeka	24	7	7	10	20	29	28
Primorac	24	6	9	9	21	36	27
Zadar	24	5	8	11	23	38	23
Istra	24	6	5	13	18	41	23
Neretva	24	4	9	11	15	31	21
Belisce	24	3	4	17	24	54	13

CZECH REPUBLIC

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slavia Prague	23	15	6	2	41	14	51
Sparta Prague	23	15	4	4	49	15	49
FC Boby Brno	23	12	7	4	39	19	43
Slovan Liberec	23	13	2	8	39	36	41
Viktoria Zizkov	23	12	3	8	49	29	39
FK Jablonec	23	10	3	10	32	26	33
C. Budejovice	23	8	9	6	21	20	33
Hradec Kralove	23	9	4	10	25	30	31
Banik Ostrava	23	8	6	9	28	34	30
Sigma Olomouc	23	8	5	10	23	26	29
Petra Drnovice	23	9	2	12	26	35	29
Viktoria Plzen	23	8	2	13	21	32	26
Union Cheb	23	7	5	11	23	37	26
Svit Zlin	23	7	5	11	17	31	26
Bohemians	23	5	4	14	26	43	19
Svarc Benesov	23	3	3	17	18	50	12

LITHUANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zhalgiris	13	12	0	1	45	10	24
ROMAR	13	10	3	0	33	3	23
Inkaras	13	8	3	2	21	9	19
Panerys	13	7	3	3	24	14	17
Aras	13	7	1	5	29	18	15
Ekranas	13	6	3	4	17	11	15
Kaunas	13	5	4	4	14	14	14
Sakalas	13	4	4	5	20	12	12
Musha	13	1	5	7	6	34	7
Banga	13	2	1	10	10	38	5
Sirijus	13	1	2	10	5	21	4
Interas	13	0	1	12	5	45	1

YUGOSLAVIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Red Star	12	9	2	1	37	10	31
Partizan	13	8	2	2	28	12	30
Vojvodina	13	7	3	3	22	15	30
Becej	13	5	3	5	9	19	21
OFK Belgrade	13	5	3	4	14	18	20
Rad	13	3	4	6	14	20	18
Borac	13	3	4	6	12	17	17
Zemun	13	3	3	7	13	20	16
Hajduk	12	4	2	6	13	18	15
Radnicki (B)	13	2	2	9	13	26	12

MACEDONIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Vardar	22	18	4	0	61	12
Sloga Jug	22	13	5	4	33	21
Sileks	22	13	3	6	44	22
Pobeda Vit	22	13	2	7	40	20
Pelister	22	11	5	6	38	34
Balkan Bisi	22	10	5	7	34	26
Sasa	22	9	3	10	25	24
Osogovo	22	7	8	7	30	25
Belasica	22	8	3	11	30	49
Ohrid	22	8	2	12	33	34
FCU	22	7	4	11	20	24
Rudar	22	7	3	12	26	39
Tikves	22	7	1	13	22	44
Borec	22	6	5	11	19	39
Ljuboten	22	6	4	12	26	42
Kozuf	22	2	4	16	16	69

HUNGARY

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Ferencvaros	22	15	3	4	50	30
UTE-Novabau	22	13	4	5	52	25
Debrecen	22	12	3	7	34	26
BVSC-Dreher	22	12	1	9	42	34
Kispest-Honved	22	11	3	8	44	31
Bekescsaba	22	9	9	4	33	23
PMSC-Fordan	22	10	4	8	25	30
Zalaegerszeg	22	9	4	9	34	43
VacFC	22	7	8	7	27	28
Gyor FC	22	9	2	11	34	28
Csepel-Kordax	22	6	6	10	18	22
Stadler FC	22	6	5	11	19	30
Nagykanizsa	22	6	4	12	20	44
EMDSZ	22	6	6	10	32	40
Vasas	22	5	4	13	26	39
Parmalat FC	22	4	6	12	23	40

POLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Legia Warsaw	26	18	4	4	48	17
Widzew Lodz	26	13	10	3	36	20
GKS Katowice	26	13	9	4	34	17
Zaglebie Lubin	26	12	7	7	35	33
Gornik Zabrze	26	8	12	6	34	27
LKS Lodz	26	8	11	7	30	29
Lech Poznan	26	9	8	9	36	29
Olimpia Poznan	26	8	8	10	35	30
Stal Mielec	26	6	12	8	32	34
Pogon Szczecin	26	8	8	10	25	28
Stomil Olsztyn	26	5	13	8	31	28
R Czestochowa	26	6	11	9	26	34
Sokol Pniewy	26	6	11	9	26	36
Petrochemia	26	7	9	10	25	35
Stal Stalowa	26	8	7	11	24	35
Hutnik Krakow	26	7	9	10	27	40
Ruch Chorzow	26	4	12	10	24	36
Warta Poznan	26	7	5	14	22	52

ROMANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Steaua	26	17	7	2	47	14
Univ. Craiova	26	16	4	6	58	24
Dinamo	26	14	4	8	45	28
Rapid	26	14	3	9	44	29
Petrolul Ploiesti	26	12	6	8	36	29
Ceahlaul	26	12	5	9	41	38
Arges Pitesti	26	13	2	11	31	43
FC National	26	12	4	10	52	47
Inter Sibiu	26	12	2	12	39	41
Gloria Bistrita	26	11	3	12	48	45
FC Farul	26	10	6	10	33	37
Univ. Cluj	26	10	4	12	29	32
Otelul Galati	26	8	8	10	36	39
Electro. Craiova	26	8	4	14	24	32
FC Brasov	26	5	9	12	24	42
Maramures	26	4	9	13	26	45
UT Arad	26	4	8	14	21	51
Spt. Studentesc	26	3	10	13	17	35

SLOVENIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Olimpia	23	18	1	4	67	21
Branik	23	12	8	3	38	21
Mura	23	13	4		38	21
Gorica	23	12	5	6	42	25
Publikum	23	12	5	6	36	20
Rudar	23	11	5	7	35	25
Beltinci	23	10	6	7	48	24
Zeljeznicar	23	12	2	9	42	32
Korotan	23	10	3	10	37	26
Primorje	23	8	6	9	35	32
Koper	23	8	5	10	16	23
Isola	23	6	5	12	22	49
Vevce	23	6	4	13	27	49
Gaj Kovevje	23	3	10	10	23	54
Zivila Naklo	23	3	8	12	20	33
Jadran	23	0	3	20	11	82

UKRAINE

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Kiev Dynamo	25	17	7	1	60	21
Chornomorets	25	16	4	5	40	21
Shaktyor	25	15	5	5	42	18
Dnipro	25	14	6	5	45	27
Tavria	25	12	6	7	45	26
Torpedo	25	13	1	11	40	30
Kryvbas	25	10	7	8	23	16
Kremin	25	10	5	10	31	34
Prykarpattya	25	9	5	11	27	36
Niva Ternopil	25	9	4	12	33	29
Karpaty Lvov	25	8	7	10	23	28
Niva Vinnitsa	25	8	4	13	26	33
SK Mykolayiv	25	8	4	13	20	41
Volyn	25	8	2	15	19	40
Veres	25	7	5	13	22	43
Metalurg	25	5	9	11	22	36
Temp	25	6	4	15	22	32
Zarya	25	5	5	15	25	54

CYPRUS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Anorthosis	30	20	6	4	62	24	66
Omonia	30	19	6	5	72	25	63
Salamina	30	16	5	9	53	45	53
Apollon	30	12	6	12	45	38	42
Apoel	30	12	6	12	39	39	42
Ethnikos	30	12	5	13	48	52	41
Paralimni	30	11	8	11	39	45	41
Olympiakos	30	11	5	14	35	53	38
AEK	30	11	4	15	44	45	37
AEL	30	11	4	15	38	50	37
Aris	30	9	7	14	40	43	34
Aradippou	30	3	4	23	35	86	13

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Panathinaikos	29	24	3	2	69	17	73
Olympiakos	29	17	6	6	57	23	57
AEK Athens	29	15	10	4	56	28	55
PAOK	29	16	5	8	47	25	53
Apollon	29	16	3	10	51	31	51
Aris Salonika	29	15	5	9	37	30	50
Heraklis	29	13	8	8	46	34	47
OFI Crete	29	13	4	12	35	33	43
Skoda-Xanthi	29	12	7	10	41	46	43
Larissa	29	10	7	12	33	34	37
Edessaikos	29	11	3	15	36	45	36
Athinaikos	29	9	9	11	25	27	35
Panionios	29	9	6	14	23	43	33
Ionikos	29	8	5	16	25	47	29
Doxa	29	8	4	17	25	59	28
Ethnikos	29	6	9	14	28	43	27
Levadiakos	29	5	4	20	19	56	19
Kavala	29	4	3	22	21	61	15

ISRAEL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mac Tel Aviv	26	16	4	6	51	25	52
Mac Haifa	26	14	6	6	57	28	48
Hap Beersheva	26	11	7	7	41	31	40
Hap Tel Aviv	26	9	12	4	33	26	39
Hap Petah Tikva	26	11	5	9	36	32	38
Bet J'lem	26	10	7	9	34	28	37
Bnei Yehuda	26	9	8	9	38	37	32
Zafririm Holon	26	9	5	11	38	44	32
Bet Tel Aviv	26	9	3	13	37	48	30
Mac Petah Tikva	26	6	11	8	33	34	29
Mac Herzliya	26	7	8	10	28	42	29
Ironi Rishon	26	6	10	9	33	37	28
Hap Haifa	26	7	7	11	36	41	28
Hap Beir She'an	26	6	10	9	23	42	28
Ironi Ashdod	26	5	10	10	34	43	25
Mac Netanya	26	6	7	12	29	46	25

MALTA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hibernians	16	11	4	1	34	10	37
Sliema Wands	16	11	3	2	50	17	36
Valletta	16	10	3	3	40	12	33
Floriana	16	9	5	2	28	10	32
Hamrun Sptns	16	9	2	5	30	21	29
Birkirkara	16	4	6	6	14	19	18
Zurrieq	16	5	2	9	15	33	17
Naxxar	16	3	3	10	12	31	12
Pieta	16	2	3	11	10	34	9
St George's	16	0	1	15	4	50	1

TURKEY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Besiktas	31	23	5	3	78	26	74
Trabzonspor	31	21	6	4	73	23	69
Galatasaray	31	20	4	7	67	33	64
Fenerbahce	31	18	6	7	72	34	60
Genclerbirligi	31	16	8	7	52	41	56
Bursaspor	31	12	10	9	43	36	46
Gaziantepspor	31	13	6	12	47	46	45
Samsunspor	31	10	9	12	47	53	39
Kocaelispor	31	10	8	13	46	55	38
Altay	31	9	11	11	36	47	38
Ankaragucu	31	10	7	14	36	48	37
Vanspor	31	10	6	15	32	41	36
Kayserispor	31	10	6	15	41	54	36
Denizlispor	31	8	10	13	40	48	34
Antalyaspor	31	8	7	16	34	45	31
Zeytinburnuspor	31	7	8	16	29	62	29
Petrolofisi	31	7	5	19	32	67	26
Adanademirspor	31	3	6	22	24	68	15

CHAMPIONS CUP

SEMI-FINALS - 2ND LEG
(April 19)

AJAX 5 (Litmanen 11, 45, George 41, R de Boer 45, Overmars 88)
BAYERN MUNICH 2 (Witeczek 36, Scholl 74pen)
HT: 3-1. **Att:** 42,000. **Ref:** Puhl (Hun).
Ajax won 5-2 on agg
Ajax: Van der Sar – Reziger, Blind, Bogarde – Rijkaard, Seedorf, R de Boer, Litmanen – George (Davids 88), Kanu (Kluivert 67), Overmars.
Bayern: Scheuer – Kuffour, Babbel, Helmer (Kreutzer 42), Ziege – Frey, Schupp, Scholl, Nerlinger – Zickler (Sutter 72), Witeczek.

MILAN 2 (Savicevic 21, 68)
PARIS SAINT GERMAIN 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 79,855. **Ref:** Mottram (Sco).
Milan won 3-0 on agg
Milan: Rossi – Tassotti (Galli 16), Baresi, Maldini, Panucci – Desailly, Albertini, Eranio, Boban – Savicevic, Simone (Donadoni 79).
Paris SG: Lama – Cobos (Sechet 76), Ricardo, A Roche, Colleter – Guerin, Bravo, Valdo (Nouma 68), Le Guen – Weah, Ginola.

CUP-WINNERS CUP

SEMI-FINALS - 2ND LEG
(April 20)

CHELSEA 3 (Furlong 31, Sinclair 63, Stein 86)
REAL ZARAGOZA 1 (Aragon 53)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Monteiro (Por)
Real Zaragoza won 4-3 on agg
Chelsea: Hitchcock – Clarke, Minto, Spackman, Johnsen (Hoddle 62), Sinclair, Lee, Stein, Furlong, Peacock, Rocastle (Spencer 46).
Zaragoza: Juanmi – Belsue, Cafu, Caceres, Oscar, Solana, Pardeza, Aragon, Esnaider (Loreto 77), Higuera (Geli 67), Nayim.

SAMPDORIA 3 (Mancini 14, Bellucci 83, 86)
ARSENAL 2 (Wright 61, Schwarz 88)
HT: 1-0. **90min:** 3-2. **Att:** 34,353. **Ref:** Grabher (Aut)
Agg 5-5, Arsenal won 3-2 on pens
Sampdoria: Zenga – Mannini, Ferri (Bellucci 75), Serena, Vierchowod, Mihajlovic, Lombardo, Jugovic, Maspero, Mancini, Evani (Invernizzi 60).
Arsenal: Seaman – Dixon, Winterburn, Schwarz, Bould, Adams, Keown, Wright (Kiwomya 81), Hartson, Merson, Hillier (McGoldrick 56).
PENALTIES *(Arsenal first)*: Dixon 1-0, Mihajlovic *saved* 1-0; McGoldrick *over bar* 1-0. Jugovic *saved* 1-0; Hartson 2-0. Maspero 2-1; Adams 3-1, Mannini 3-2; Merson *saved* 3-2, Lombardo *saved* 3-2.

UEFA CUP

SEMI-FINALS - 2ND LEG
(April 18)

BORUSSIA DORTMUND 1 (Julio Cesar 9)
JUVENTUS 2 (Porrini 6, Baggio 30)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 35,400. **Ref:** Van der Ende (Hol)
Juventus won 4-3 on agg
Dortmund: Klos – Julio Cesar (Zelic 58), Schmidt, Kurz – Reuter, Freund, Franck, Zorc, Reinhardt (Ricken 46) – Tanko, Tretschok.
Juventus: Rampulla – Ferrara, Kohler (Di Livio 8), Carrera, Porrini – Conte, Deschamps, Sousa, Baggio – Del Piero (Tacchinardi 72), Ravanelli.

PARMA 3 (Asprilia 4, 55, Zola 67)
BAYER LEVERKUSEN 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 13,000. **Ref:** Goethals (Bel)
Parma won 5-1 on agg
Parma: Bucci – Mussi, Minotti, Susic, Castellini – Couto, D Baggio (Fiore 74), Pin, Crippa – Asprilia (Branca 74), Zola.
Leverkusen: Vollborn – Scholz, Happe, Melzig, Lupescu (Lehnhoff 64) – Hapal, Paulo Sergio (Munch 69), B Schuster, Thom – Voller, Kirsten.

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

SUNDAY, APRIL 2

Apr 2 = Libreville – friendly
GABON 7 (Amegasse 7, Kassa 27, Ondo 42, 60, Bayonne 57, Retoa 70, Mboungha Nze 88)
BENIN 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 6,000. **Ref:** Diramba (Gab)

Apr 2 = Georgetown – Shell Cup gp C
GUYANA 0
BARBADOS 4 (Riley 35, 41, 74, Alexander 89)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 1,500. **Ref:** Murray (T&T)
Barbados won 7-0 on agg

Apr 2 = St Vincent – Shell Cup gp D
ST VINCENT & GRENADINES 0
DOMINICA 0
St Vincent & Grenadines 1-0 on agg

Apr 2 = The Valley – Shell Cup gp D
ANGUILLA 0
MONTSERRAT 1 (Weebb)
Montserrat won 4-2 on agg

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5

Apr 5 = Montevideo – friendly
URUGUAY 1 (Bengoechea 58 pen)
PERU 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Galessio (Uru)
Uruguay: Ferro – Lopez, Aguirregaray, Gutierrez, Adinolfi – Mendez (Tejera 59), Otero (Tabare Silva 59), Abeijon, Bengoechea – Otero, Dario Silva (Canobbio 69).

FRIDAY, APRIL 7

Apr 7 = Nouakchott – Afr Chp gp 2
MAURITANIA 0
SENEGAL 1 (Ma Diallo 14)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 8,000.

Apr 7 = Alexandria – Af Chp gp 4
EGYPT 3 (Abou Dahab 10, El Sawy 70, El Kas 88)
SUDAN 1 (Edward 71)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 35,000.

Apr 7 = Algiers – Af Chp gp 4
ALGERIA 2 (Tasfaout 17, 32)
ETHIOPIA 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Hosni (Tun)

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

Apr 8 = Freetown – Af Chp gp 3
SIERRA LEONE 1 (L Conteh 77 pen)
GHANA 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 50,000.

Apr 8 = Kampala – Af Chp gp 4
UGANDA 2 (Obwinyi 30, Mutyaba 38)
TANZANIA 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 25,000.

Apr 8 = Lusaka – Af Chp gp 5
ZAMBIA 1 (Kalusha Bwalya 83)
GABON 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 40,000.

Apr 8 = Windhoek – Af Chp gp 6
NAMIBIA 2 (Lucky Richter 11, Sylvester Goraseb 61)
ANGOLA 2 (Paulao 8, Quinzinho 76)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 5,000.

SUNDAY, APRIL 9

Apr 9 = Castries – Shell Cup gp C
ST LUCIA 4 (Calendar 2, Rismay, Elva)
GRENADA 0
St Lucia won 4-2 on agg

Apr 9 = Lilongwe – Af Chp gp 1
MALAWI 0
ZAIRE 1 (Liombi Essende 11)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 20,000.

Apr 9 = Maseru – Af Chp gp 1
LESOTHO 0
ZIMBABWE 2 (Sawu 14, Rinyano 16)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 4,000.

Apr 9 = Lome – Af Chp gp 2
TOGO 0
LIBERIA 0
Att: 15,000

Apr 9 = Banjul – Af Chp gp 3
GAMBIA 1 (S Kargbo 44)
CONGO 1 (Imboula 67)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 10,000.

Apr 9 = Maputo – Af Chp gp 6
MOZAMBIQUE 1 (Conde 44)
MALI 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 40,000.

Apr 9 = Conakry – Af Chp gp 6
GUINEA 5 (Camara 6, 10, Sylla 54, Diane 60, Sow 88)
BOTSWANA 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 50,000.

Apr 9 = Casablanca – Af Chp gp 7
MOROCCO 0
BURKINA FASO 0
Att: 45,000

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12

Apr 12 = Strumica – friendly
MACEDONIA 0
BULGARIA 0
Att: 7,000.
Macedonia: Celeski – Trifunov (Topciu), Stojkovski, Kanatlarovski, Memed, Jovanovski, Micevski (Davitkov), Nikolov, Boskovski (Petreski), Ciric, Serafimovski.
Bulgaria: Mikhailov – Kremenliev, Ivanov, Tzvetanov, Zafirov, Slavcev (Angelov), Yankov, Borimirov (Voinov), Shalamanov (Kiriakov), Stoilov, Sirakov (Borisov).

FRIDAY, APRIL 14

Apr 14 = Port Said – friendly
EGYPT 1 (I Hassan 38)
TUNISIA 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Kadri (Alg)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19

Apr 19 = Lima – friendly
PERU 6 (Maestri 2, 6, 40, Baroni 29, 67, 88)
CHILE 0
HT: 4-0. **Att:** 17,500. **Ref:** Lugones (Bol)
Peru: Miranda – Jorge Soto, Jose Soto, Dulanto, Ubiluz – Carranza, Rodriguez, Palacios, Magallanes (Solano), Maestri (Ramirez), Baroni.
Chile: Varas – Castaneda (Rojas), Mendoza, Margas, Acuna (Golber) – Perez, Parraguez, Valencia, Mac Niven (Mardones) – Tudor (Galdames), Salas.

SATURDAY, APRIL 22

Apr 22 = Molenbeek – friendly
BELGIUM 1 (Schepens 44)
UNITED STATES 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 14,000. **Ref:** Zen-Ruffinen (Swi).
Belgium: Bodart – Grun, Medved (Crasson 46), Renier, Smidts – Schepens (Boffin 72), Walem (Leonard 79), Staelens (Verjans 46), Karagiannis – De Bilde (Goossens 46), Nilis (Verheyen 77).
US: Friedel – Lapper, Caligiuri, Agoos, Ibsen – Jones, Kerr (Lozzano 85), Burns (Bravo 62), Klopas (Kirovski 17; Salcedo 89) – Wynalda (Berhalter 59), Stewart.

Apr 22 = Temuco – friendly
CHILE 1 (Salas 51)
ICELAND 1 (Gunnlaugsson 17)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Filippi (Uru)
Chile: Varas – G Mendoza, Acuna, M Ramiez (Galdames 67), Margas – Parraguez, Perez, Valencia, Mardones – Tudor (Goldberg 46), Salas.
Iceland: B Kristinsson – G Bergsson, R Kristinsson (Benediktsson 46), K Johnsson, Dadidervio – Gudjohnsen, Orlygsson, S Jonsson, Stefansson – Sverisson, Gunnlaugsson.

Apr 22 = Brazzaville – Af Chp gp 3
CONGO 0
SIERRA LEONE 2 (Mohamed Kallon 54, John Sama 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 14,000.

Apr 22 = Dakar – Af Chp gp 2
SENEGAL 5 (Mamadou Diallo 8, 60, Moussa Ndao 19, 86, Amara Traore 88)
TOGO 1 (Ametoko Messa 7)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 50,000.

Apr 22 = Dar-es-Salaam – Af Chp gp 4
TANZANIA 1 (Madaraka Selemanu 89)
EGYPT 2 (Abou Dahab 27, 68)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 35,000.

Apr 22 = Luanda – Af Chp gp 6
ANGOLA 3 (Akwa 48, 75, Paulao 55)
GUINEA 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 22,000.

Apr 22 = Gaborone – Af Chp gp 6
BOTSWANA 0
MOZAMBIQUE 3 (Chiquinho Conde 15, 53, Nuru 69)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 15,000.

SUNDAY, APRIL 23

Apr 23 = Kinshasa – Af Chp gp 1
ZAIRE 2 (Ndinga Mbote 75, Kona 82)
CAMEROON 1 (Mouyene 68)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 45,000.

Apr 23 = Harare – Af Chp gp 1
ZIMBABWE 1 (P Ndlovu)
MALAWI 1
Att: 35,000.

Apr 23 = Monrovia – Af Chp gp 2
LIBERIA 1 (Boye Charles 64)
TUNISIA 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 35,000.

Apr 23 = Accra – Af Chp gp 3
GHANA 1 (Anthony Yeboah 21)
NIGER 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 40,000.

Apr 23 = Addis Ababa – Af Chp gp 4
ETHIOPIA 0
UGANDA 0
Att: 30,000.

Apr 23 = Bamako – Af Chp gp 6
MALI 2 (Modibo Sidibe 16, Abdoula Karim Magassouba 66)
NAMIBIA 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 30,000.

MONDAY, APRIL 24

Apr 24 = Khartoum – Af Chp gp 4
SUDAN 2 (El Hilou Bobkar 21pen, 79)
ALGERIA 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Abdelssetah (Egy)

TUESDAY, APRIL 25

Apr 25 = Zabrze – Euro Chp gp 1
POLAND 4 (Nowak 1, Juskowiak 50, Kowalczyk 55, Kosecki 62)
ISRAEL 3 (Rosenthal 37, Revivo 42, Zohar 77)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 5,500. **Ref:** Frisk (Swe)
Poland: Wandzik – Lapinski, Swierczewski, Waldoch, Kozminski, P Swierczewski, Baluszynski (Bukalski 46), Nowak (Wieszczycki 46), Kosecki, Kowalczyk, Juskowiak.
Israel: Ginsburg – Halfon, Glam, Hazan, A Harazi, Klinger, Banin, Revivo, Berkowitz, Mizrachi (Zohar 71), Rosenthal.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26

Apr 26 = Maseru – friendly
LESOTHO 1 (Lefika Lekhotla 36)
SOUTH AFRICA 3 (Khumalo 21, Motale 26, Mkhalele 38)
HT: 1-3. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** P Lillane (Les)
Lesotho: Phakisi (Mafantiri 40) – Maseela, Mokhotha, Ramafikeng, Lerotholi, Makhele, Majoro, Mohapi, Lekhotla, Lekoane, Madiehe (Matsoara 61).
S Africa: Crowley – Motaung, Motale, Tucker, Tovey, Moeti, Mncwango (Modise 69), Khumalo, Mkhalele, Mudau (Bartlett 75), Maponyane.

Apr 26 = Yerevan – EC gp 2
ARMENIA 0
SPAIN 2 (Amavisca 49, Goikoetxea 63)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Porumboiu (Rom)
Armenia: Abramian – Sukiasyan, Ovsepian, Tonoyan, Oganesian, Vardanyan, Petrosyan, Grigoryan (Takmazyan 68), Mkhitaryan, Shakhgeldyan, Adamyan (Avetisyan 46).
Spain: Zubizarreta – Belsue, Otero, Alcorta, Karanca, Nadal, Goikoetxea, Luis Enrique, Pizzi (Salinas 52), Donato (Camarasa 70), Amavisca.

Apr 26 = Salzburg – EC gp 6
AUSTRIA 7 (Kuhbauer 7, Polster 10, 54 pen, Sabitzer 17, Purk 84, Hutter 87, 89)
LIECHTENSTEIN 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 5,500. **Ref:** Melnichouk (Ukr)
Austria: Konrad – Feiersinger, Furstaller (Hutter 71), Kogler, Ramusch, Artner, Kuhbauer, Herzog, Marasek, Sabitzer (Purk 69), Polster.
Liechtenstein: Oehry – Moser, Stocker, J Ospelt, Ritter (Matt 66), Hilti, Twiser, Zech, Hasler, Oehri (Marxer 46), Burgmaier.

Apr 26 = Trabzon, Turkey – EC gp 1
AZERBAIJAN 1 (Suleimanov 35)
ROMANIA 4 (Raducioiu 2, 69, 76, Dumitrescu 39)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 1,000. **Ref:** Momirov (Bul)
Azerbaijan: Gasanov – Asadov, Ghesmam, Ahmedov (Varapzade 21), Kabarov (Kadirov 75), Abusev, Gusseinov, Deneiev, Lukin, Suleimanov, Alekperov.
Romania: Stelea (Prunea 88) – Petrescu, Prodan, Selymes, Belodedic, Munteanu (Lupu 70), Popescu (D Timofte 81), Lupescu, Dumitrescu, Lacatus, Raducioiu.

Apr 26 = Minsk – EC gp 5
BYELORUSSIA 1 (Taikov 57)
MALTA 1 (Carabott 71)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 9,250. **Ref:** Gadosi (Slovak)
Byelorussia: Marshoukel – Gurenko, Zigmantovich, Taikov, Zhuravel, Metlitski (Rodiokov 70), Yusipets (Romachenko 75), Chukanov, Gerasimets, Gurinovich, Antonovich.
Malta: Cluett – S Vella, Buttigieg, E Camilleri, Woods, Saliba, Gregory (Agius 24), Laferla, Sant Fournier, Carabott, Busuttil (L Attard 88).

Apr 26 = Brussels – EC gp 3
BELGIUM 2 (Karagiannis 20, Schepens 47)
CYPRUS 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 14,000. **Ref:** Elleray (Eng)
Belgium: Bodart – Medved, Grun, Renier, Smidts – Staelens, Karagiannis, Schepens – Degryse, De Bilde (Goossens 81), Nilis.
Cyprus: N Panayiotou – Kalotheou, C Pittas, D Ioannou, M Charalambous, A Andreou – Engomitis, Christodoulou, Papavasiliou (Sotiriou 85) – Agathocleous (Larku 62), Gogic.

Apr 26 = Zagreb – EC gp 4
CROATIA 2 (Prosinecki 17, Suker 90)
SLOVENIA 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Saravan (Tur)
Croatia: Ladic* – Jurcevic (Gabric 12), Jarni, Stimac, Jerkan, Bilic, Asanovic, Prosinecki, Suker, Boban, Boksic.
** = Ladic sent off, 12min.*
Slovenia: Boskovic – Galic, Englaro, Milanic (Skaper 78), Binkovski, Jermanis, Novak, Zidan*, Zahovic (Kokol 57), Florijancic, Gliha.
** = Zidan sent off, 86min.*

Apr 26 = Prague – EC gp 5
CZECH REPUBLIC 3 (Skuhravy 49, Nemecek 57, Berger 62)
HOLLAND 1 (Jonk 7)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 17,463. **Ref:** Krug (Ger).
Czech Republic: Kouba – Hapal, Kadlec, Suchoparek, Repka, Nemec, Nemecek, Berger, Frydek (Latal 46), Kuka (Siegl 89), Skuhravy.
Holland: De Goey – Valckx, Blind, F de Boer, Jonk, Winter (Kluivert 63), R de Boer, Numan, Seedorf, Overmars, Van Vossen (Bosz 46).

Apr 26 = Copenhagen – EC gp 2
DENMARK 1 (P Nielsen 70)
MACEDONIA 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 38,888. **Ref:** Ihring (Slovak).
Denmark: Schmeichel – Laursen, Rieper, Hogh, Schjonberg, C Thomsen, Steen Nielsen, P Nielsen (Helveg 78), P Rasmussen (Bo Andersen 46), M Laudrup, B Laudrup.
Macedonia: Celevski – Stanojkovic, Stojkoski, Markovski (Nedzmedin 26), Najdoski, Jovanovski, Boskovic, Pancev, Djurovski, Serafimovski (Stojkovski 77), Micevski.

Apr 26 = Tallinn – EC gp 4
ESTONIA 0
UKRAINE 1 (Guseinov 16)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 1,600. **Ref:** Hollung (Nor)
Estonia: Poom – Lemsalu, Kirs, T Kallaste, R Kallaste, V Alonen, Oiumets, Reims (Pari 68), Krom (Lepa 46), Lell, Kristal.
Ukraine: Suslov – Luzhni, Shmatovalenko, Diriavka, Golovko, Orbu, Yabchenko, Maksimov, Nadouda (Yevtouchok 85), Nagorniak (Konovalov 46), Gusseinov.

Apr 26 = Toftir – EC gp 8
FAROE ISLANDS 0
FINLAND 4 (Hjelm 55, Patelainen 75, Lindberg 78, Helin 83)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 1,000. **Ref:** Howells (Wal)
Faeroes: Knudsen – O Johannesen, J C Hansen, Rasmussen, K Morkore, A Morkore, M Jarnskor (H Jarnskor 80), O

RESULTS

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Hansen, A Joensen, T Jonsson, J Johnson, S F Johannesen.
Finland: Laukkanen – Makela, Ukkonen, Eriksson, Helin, Lindberg (Suominen 82), Sumiala (Kolkka 61), Hyypia, Hjelm, Litmanen, Paatelainen.

Apr 26 = Nantes – EC gp 1
FRANCE 4 (Kristofik og 27, Ginola 43, Blanc 57, Guerin 61)
SLOVAKIA 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 26,000. **Ref:** Heynemann (Ger)
France: Lama – Angloma, Blanc, Roche, De Meco, Guerin, Deschamps, Desailly, Zidane (Djorkaeff 74), Ginola, Loko.
Slovakia: Molnar – Stupala, Zeman, Kinder, Kristofik, Tomaschek (Timko 46), Dubovsky, Penksa (Maixner 74), Tittel, Glonek, Moravcik.

Apr 26 = Tbilisi – EC gp 7
GEORGIA 2 (S Arveladze 3, Ketsbaia 42)
ALBANIA 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Luinge (Hol)
Georgia: Devadze – Shelia, Kudinov, Kestbaia, Gogichaishvili, Inalishvili, Dzhamarauli – S Arveladze, Kizilashvili, A Arveladze, Kudushauri.
Albania: Strakosha – Mema, Vata, Xhumba, Kacai, Fortuzi (Prenga 46), Malko, Dalipi, Demollari, Rrakli, Kushta (Dosti 87).

Apr 26 = Dusseldorf – EC gp 7
GERMANY 1 (Herrlich 42)
WALES 1 (Saunders 8)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 43,461. **Ref:** Encinar (Spa).
Germany: Kopke – Reuter, R Weber, Babbel, Freund, Ziege (Kuntz 85), Eilts, Basler (Scholl 70), Hassler, Herrlich, Klinsmann.
Wales: Southall – Phillips, Bowen, Coleman (A Williams 46), Symons, Jones, Horne, Speed, Saunders, Rush, Hughes (Hartson 90), Saunders.

Apr 26 = Salonika – EC gp 8
GREECE 0
RUSSIA 3 (Nikiforov 36, Zagorakis og 78, Beschastnykh 79)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Staffogia (Ita)
Greece: Atmatsides – Apostolakis, Kasapis, Dabizas, Kalitzakis, Tsalouhides, Zagorakis, Nioplias (Tsartas 46), Mahlas (Nikolaides 59), Tursunides, Donis.
Russia: Kharin – Kulkov, Nikiforov, Kovtun, Khlestov, Karpin, Onopko, Piatnitski (Kiriakov 46), Dobrovolsky, Radchenko (Mostovoi 77), Beschastnykh.

Apr 26 = Budapest – EC gp 3
HUNGARY 1 (Halmai 2)
SWEDEN 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Lopez Nieto (Spa)
Hungary: Vegh – Mracsko, Csabi, Meszoly, Kozma, Lipcsei, Csertoi (Szlezak 89), Halmai, Salloi, Illes, Vincze (Urban 69).
Sweden: Ravelli – R Nilsson, P Andersson, Kaamark, Ljung, Schwarz, Alexandersson (Gudmunsson 85), Ingesson, Mild (R Andersson 63), Zetterberg, K Andersson.

Apr 26 = Riga – EC gp 6
LATVIA 0
NORTHERN IRELAND 1 (Dowie 69 pen)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 1,500. **Ref:** F Lambeks (Den)
Latvia: Laizans – Troicki, Astafiev, Zemlinski, Shevliakov, Sprogis, Stepanov, Blagonadezhdin (Butkus 30), Teplov, Babichev, Yeliseyev.
N Ireland: Fettis – Patterson, Worthington, Hunter, McDonald, Hill, Gillespie (O'Boyle 78), Wilson, Dowie (Quinn 81), Horlock, Hughes.

Apr 26 = Vilnius – EC gp 4
LITHUANIA 0
ITALY 1 (Zola 11)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** McCluskey (Sco)
Lithuania: Stauce – Suika, Zukas, Sukristovas, Vainoras, Tereskinas, Gudaitis (Poderis 66), Ivanauskas, Aparavicius (Preksaitis 46), Skarbalius, Slekis.
Italy: Pagliuca – Benarrivo, Costacurta, Minotti, Maldini, Lombardo, Di Matteo, Conte (D Baggio 24), Crippa (Berti 79), Zola, Casiraghi.

Apr 26 = Kishinev – EC gp 7
MOLDOVA 0
BULGARIA 3 (Balakov 29, Stoichkov 54, 67)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 20,500. **Ref:** Ulrich (Cze)
Moldova: Kosheiev – Secu, Fistican, Pogorelov, Caras (Gaidamashchu 65), Rebeja, Oprea (Chibotaru 72), Belous, Nani, Curtianu, Kleshchenko.
Bulgaria: Mikhailov – Kremenliev (Kiriakov 82), Ivanov, Tzvetanov, Hubchev, Yankov, Iordanov, Stoichkov (Mihtarski 79), Penev, Balakov, Lechkov.

Apr 26 = Oslo – EC gp 5
NORWAY 5 (J I Jakobsen 11, Fjortoft 12, Brattbakk 24, Berg 46, Rekdal 52)
LUXEMBOURG 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 15,124. **Ref:** Farry (NI)
Norway: Grodaas – Brattbakk, Johnsen, Berg (Haaland 65), Nilsen, Halle, Bohinen (Solbakken 35), Leonhardsen, Fjortoft, Rekdal, J I Jakobsen.
Luxembourg: Koch – Feyder, Vanek, Holtz (Theis 56), Strasser, Deville, Hellers, Sabeine (Lamborelle 75), Langers, Cardoni, Groff.

Apr 26 = Dublin – EC gp 6
REPUBLIC OF IRELAND 1 (Vitor Baia og 44)
PORTUGAL 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** A Amendoia (Ita)
Rep. of Ireland: A Kelly – G Kelly, Irwin, Babb, McGrath, Houghton (Kenna 84), Townsend, Aldridge (Cascarino 84), Quinn, Sheridan, Staunton.
Portugal: Vitor Baia – Joao Pinto I, Jorge Costa, Helder (Folha 63), Fernando Couto, Paulo Sousa, Luis Figo (Alfredo 75), Paulinho Santos, Joao Vieira Pinto II, Domingos, Rui Costa.

Apr 26 = Serravalle – EC gp 8
SAN MARINO 0
SCOTLAND 2 (Collins 19, Calderwood 85)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 1,738. **Ref:** L Loizou (Cyp).
San Marino: Benedettini – Canti, Gennari, Mazza, Gobbi, Guerra, Manzaroli, Della Valle, Bacciocchi, Bonini (Matteoni 46), Mularoni (Gualtieri 71).
Scotland: Leighton – Calderwood, Boyd, McLaren, Hendry, Jackson, Nevin (McKinley 78), Shearer, McGinlay (Spencer 67), McAllister, Collins.

Apr 26 = Bern – EC gp 3
SWITZERLAND 1 (Hottiger 38)
TURKEY 2 (Hakan 17, Temizkanoglu 54)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 24,000. **Ref:** Van den Wijngaert (Bel)
Switzerland: Pascoio – Hottinger, Herr, Geiger, Fernandez (Walker 75), Ohrel, Sforza, Bickel, A Sutter, Grassi, Bonvin (Zuffi 70).
Turkey: Engin – K Bulent, Alpay, Emre, Recep, Tolunay, Abdullah, Oguz (Ertugrul 83), Sergen (Suat 79), Ogun, Hakan.

1996 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

● *Group winners & six best second-placed teams qualify for finals. Remaining two second-placed teams play-off for place in the finals.*
Note: *Records against bottom two teams in each group do not count towards final positions for qualification purposes.*

GROUP 1

04.09.94 Israel v Poland 2-1
07.09.94 Slovakia v France 0-0
07.09.94 Romania v Azerbaijan 3-0
08.10.94 France v Romania 0-0
12.10.94 Israel v Slovakia 2-2
12.10.94 Poland v Azerbaijan 1-0
12.11.94 Romania v Slovakia 3-2
16.11.94 Poland v France 0-0
16.11.94 Azerbaijan v Israel 0-2
13.12.94 Azerbaijan v France 0-2
14.12.94 Israel v Romania 1-1
29.03.95 Romania v Poland 2-1
29.03.95 Israel v France 0-0
29.03.95 Slovakia v Azerbaijan 4-1
25.04.95 Poland v Israel 4-3
26.04.95 France v Slovakia 4-0
26.04.95 Azerbaijan v Romania 1-4
07.06.95 Poland v Slovakia
07.06.95 Romania v Israel
16.08.95 France v Poland
16.08.95 Azerbaijan v Slovakia
06.09.95 France v Azerbaijan
06.09.95 Slovakia v Israel
06.09.95 Poland v Romania
11.10.95 Romania v France
11.10.95 Israel v Azerbaijan
11.10.95 Slovakia v Poland
15.11.95 Slovakia v Romania
15.11.95 Azerbaijan v Poland
15.11.95 France v Israel

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Romania	6	4	2	0	13	4	14
France	6	2	4	0	6	0	10
Israel	6	2	3	1	10	8	9
Poland	5	2	1	2	7	7	7
Slovakia	5	1	2	2	8	10	5
Azerbaijan	6	0	0	6	2	16	0

GROUP 2

07.09.94 Cyprus v Spain 1-2
07.09.94 Macedonia v Denmark 1-1
07.09.94 Belgium v Armenia 2-0
08.10.94 Armenia v Cyprus 0-0
12.10.94 Denmark v Belgium 3-1
12.10.94 Macedonia v Spain 0-2
16.11.94 Belgium v Macedonia 1-1
16.11.94 Spain v Denmark 3-0
16.11.94 Cyprus v Armenia 2-0
17.12.94 Belgium v Spain 1-4
17.12.94 Macedonia v Cyprus 3-0
29.03.95 Spain v Belgium 1-1
29.03.95 Cyprus v Denmark 1-1
26.04.95 Armenia v Spain 0-2
26.04.95 Belgium v Cyprus 2-0
26.04.95 Denmark v Macedonia 1-0
10.05.95 Armenia v Macedonia
07.06.95 Denmark v Cyprus
07.06.95 Macedonia v Belgium
07.06.95 Spain v Armenia
16.08.95 Armenia v Denmark
06.09.95 Belgium v Denmark
06.09.95 Spain v Cyprus
06.09.95 Macedonia v Armenia
07.10.95 Armenia v Belgium
11.10.95 Denmark v Spain
11.10.95 Cyprus v Macedonia
15.11.95 Spain v Macedonia
15.11.95 Cyprus v Belgium
15.11.95 Denmark v Armenia

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	6	5	1	0	14	3	16
Denmark	5	2	2	1	6	6	8
Belgium	6	2	2	2	8	9	8
Macedonia	5	1	2	2	5	5	5
Cyprus	6	1	2	3	4	8	5
Armenia	4	0	1	3	0	6	1

GROUP 3

07.09.94 Iceland v Sweden 0-1
07.09.94 Hungary v Turkey 2-2
12.10.94 Turkey v Iceland 5-0
12.10.94 Switzerland v Sweden 4-2
16.11.94 Switzerland v iceland 1-0
16.11.94 Sweden v Hungary 2-0
14.12.94 Turkey v Switzerland 1-2
29.03.95 Turkey v Sweden 2-1
29.03.95 Hungary v Switzerland 2-2
26.04.95 Hungary v Sweden 1-0
26.04.95 Switzerland v Turkey 1-2
01.06.95 Sweden v Iceland
11.06.95 Iceland v Hungary
16.08.95 Iceland v Switzerland
06.09.95 Sweden v Switzerland
06.09.95 Turkey v Hungary
11.10.95 Switzerland v Hungary
11.10.95 Iceland v Turkey
11.11.95 Hungary v iceland
15.11.95 Sweden v Turkey

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Turkey	5	3	1	1	12	6	10
Switzerland	5	3	1	1	10	7	10
Sweden	5	2	0	3	6	7	6
Hungary	4	1	2	1	5	6	5
Iceland	3	0	0	3	0	7	0

GROUP 4

04.09.94 Estonia v Croatia 0-2
07.09.94 Slovenia v Italy 1-1
07.09.94 Ukraine v Lithuania 0-2
08.10.94 Estonia v Italy 0-2
09.10.94 Croatia v Lithuania 2-0
12.10.94 Ukraine v Slovenia 0-0
13.11.94 Ukraine v Estonia 3-0
16.11.94 Slovenia v Lithuania 1-2
16.11.94 Italy v Croatia 1-2
25.03.95 Italy v Estonia 4-1
25.03.95 Croatia v Ukraine 4-0
29.03.95 Slovenia v Estonia 3-0
29.03.95 Ukraine v Italy 0-2
29.03.95 Lithuania v Croatia 0-0
26.04.95 Lithuania v Italy 0-1
26.04.95 Croatia v Slovenia 2-0
26.04.95 Estonia v Ukraine 0-1
07.06.95 Lithuania v Slovenia
11.06.95 Estonia v Slovenia
11.06.95 Ukraine v Croatia
16.08.95 Estonia v Lithuania
03.09.95 Croatia v Estonia
06.09.95 Italy v Slovenia
06.09.95 Lithuania v Ukraine
08.10.95 Croatia v Italy
11.10.95 Slovenia v Ukraine
11.10.95 Lithuania v Estonia
11.11.95 Italy v Ukraine
15.11.95 Slovenia v Croatia
15.11.95 Italy v Lithuania

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Croatia	6	5	1	0	12	1	16
Italy	6	4	1	1	11	4	13
Lithuania	5	2	1	2	4	4	7
Ukraine	6	2	1	3	4	8	7
Slovenia	5	1	2	2	5	5	5
Estonia	6	0	0	6	1	15	0

GROUP 5

06.09.94 Czech Rep v Malta 6-1
07.09.94 Luxembourg v Holland 0-4
07.09.94 Norway v Byelorussia 1-0
12.10.94 Malta v Czech Rep 0-0
12.10.94 Byelorussia v Luxembourg 2-0
12.10.94 Norway v Holland 1-1
16.11.94 Byelorussia v Norway 0-4
16.11.94 Holland v Czech Rep 0-0
14.12.94 Malta v Norway 0-1
14.12.94 Holland v Luxembourg 5-0
22.02.95 Malta v Luxembourg 0-1
29.03.95 Czech Rep v Byelorussia 4-2
29.03.95 Luxembourg v Norway 0-2
29.03.95 Holland v Malta 4-0
26.04.95 Byelorussia v Malta 1-1
26.04.95 Czech Rep v Holland 3-1
26.04.95 Norway v Luxembourg 5-0
07.06.95 Byelorussia v Holland
07.06.95 Luxembourg v Czech Rep
07.06.95 Norway v Malta
16.08.95 Norway v Czech Rep
06.09.95 Czech Rep v Norway
06.09.95 Luxembourg v Malta
06.09.95 Holland v Byelorussia
07.10.95 Byelorussia v Czech Rep
11.10.95 Malta v Holland
11.10.95 Luxembourg v Byelorussia
12.11.95 Malta v Byelorussia
15.11.95 Czech Rep v Luxembourg
15.11.95 Holland v Norway

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Norway	6	5	1	0	14	1	16
Holland	6	3	2	1	15	4	11
Czech Republic	5	3	2	0	13	4	11
Byelorussia	5	1	1	3	5	10	4
Luxembourg	6	1	0	5	1	18	3
Malta	6	0	2	4	2	13	2

GROUP 6

20.04.94 N. Ireland v Liechtenstein 4-1
07.09.94 Liechtenstein v Austria 0-4
07.09.94 N. Ireland v Portugal 1-2
07.09.94 Latvia v Rep. Ireland 0-3
09.10.94 Latvia v Portugal 1-3
12.10.94 Austria v N. Ireland 1-2
12.10.94 Rep. Ireland v Liechtenstein 4-0
13.11.94 Portugal v Austria 1-0
15.11.94 Liechtenstein v Latvia 0-1
16.11.94 N. Ireland v Rep. Ireland 0-4
18.12.94 Portugal v Liechtenstein 8-0
29.03.95 Rep. Ireland v N. Ireland 1-1
29.03.95 Austria v Latvia 5-0
26.04.95 Rep. Ireland v Portugal 1-0
26.04.95 Latvia v N. Ireland 0-1
26.04.95 Austria v Liechtenstein 7-0
03.06.95 Portugal v Latvia
03.06.95 Liechtenstein v Rep. Ireland
07.06.95 N. Ireland v Latvia
11.06.95 Rep. Ireland v Austria
15.08.95 Liechtenstein v Portugal
16.08.95 Latvia v Austria
03.09.95 Portugal v N. Ireland
06.09.95 Austria v Rep. Ireland
06.09.95 Latvia v Liechtenstein
11.10.95 Rep. Ireland v Latvia
11.10.95 Austria v Portugal
11.10.95 Liechtenstein v N. Ireland
15.11.95 Portugal v Rep. Ireland
15.11.95 N. Ireland v Austria

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rep. Ireland	5	4	1	0	13	1	13
Portugal	5	4	0	1	14	3	12
Northern Ireland	6	3	1	2	9	9	10
Austria	5	3	0	2	17	3	9
Latvia	5	1	0	4	2	12	3
Liechtenstein	6	0	0	6	1	28	0

GROUP 7

07.09.94 Wales v Albania 2-0
07.09.94 Georgia v Moldova 0-1
12.10.94 Moldova v Wales 3-2
12.10.94 Bulgaria v Georgia 2-0
16.11.94 Albania v Germany 1-2
16.11.94 Georgia v Wales 5-0
16.11.94 Bulgaria v Moldova 4-1
14.12.94 Wales v Bulgaria 0-3
14.12.94 Moldova v Germany 0-3
14.12.94 Albania v Georgia 0-1
18.12.94 Germany v Albania 2-1
29.03.95 Georgia v Germany 0-2
29.03.95 Bulgaria v Wales 3-1
29.03.95 Albania v Moldova 3-0
26.04.95 Germany v Wales 1-1
26.04.95 Moldova v Bulgaria 0-3
26.04.95 Georgia v Albania 2-0
07.06.95 Bulgaria v Germany
07.06.95 Wales v Georgia
07.06.95 Moldova v Albania
06.09.95 Germany v Georgia
06.09.95 Wales v Moldova
06.09.95 Albania v Bulgaria
07.10.95 Bulgaria v Albania
08.10.95 Germany v Moldova
11.10.95 Wales v Germany
11.10.95 Georgia v Bulgaria
15.11.95 Germany v Bulgaria
15.11.95 Albania v Wales
15.11.95 Moldova v Georgia

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulgaria	5	5	0	0	15	2	15
Germany	5	4	1	0	10	3	13
Georgia	6	3	0	3	8	5	9
Moldova	6	2	0	4	5	15	6
Wales	6	1	1	4	6	15	4
Albania	6	1	0	5	5	9	3

GROUP 8

07.09.94 Finland v Scotland 0-2
07.09.94 Faroe Islands v Greece 1-5
12.10.94 Scotland v Faroe Islands 5-1
12.10.94 Greece v Finland 4-0
12.10.94 Russia v San Marino 4-0
16.11.94 Scotland v Russia 1-1
16.11.94 Greece v San Marino 2-0
16.11.94 Finland v Faroe Islands 5-0
14.12.94 Finland v San Marino 4-1
18.12.94 Greece v Scotland 1-0
29.03.94 Russia v Scotland 0-0
29.03.95 San Marino v Finland 0-2
26.04.95 San Marino v Scotland 0-2
26.04.95 Greece v Russia 0-3
26.04.95 Faroe Islands v Finland 0-4
06.05.95 Russia v Faroe Islands
25.05.95 Faroe Islands v San Marino
07.06.95 Faroe Islands v Scotland
07.06.95 San Marino v Russia
11.06.95 Finland v Greece
16.08.95 Scotland v Greece
16.08.95 Finland v Russia
06.09.95 Scotland v Finland
06.09.95 Faroe Islands v Russia
06.09.95 San Marino v Greece
11.10.95 Russia v Greece
11.10.95 San Marino v Faroe Islands
15.11.95 Scotland v San Marino
15.11.95 Russia v Finland
15.11.95 Greece v Faroe Islands

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Finland	6	4	0	2	15	7	[illegible]
Greece	5	4	0	1	12	4	[illegible]
Scotland	6	3	2	1	10	3	[illegible]
Russia	4	2	2	0	8	1	[illegible]
San Marino	5	0	0	5	1	14	[illegible]
Faroe Islands	4	0	0	4	2	19	[illegible]

UNDER-20 WORLD CUP

1st Round

Group A

13.04.95 Qatar v Russia ..... 1-[illegible]
14.04.95 Brazil v Syria ..... 6-[illegible]
16.04.95 Syria v Qatar ..... 1-[illegible]
17.04.95 Russia v Brazil ..... 0-[illegible]
19.04.95 Brazil v Qatar ..... 2-[illegible]

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
BRAZIL	3	2	1	0	8	0	[illegible]
RUSSIA	3	1	2	0	3	1	[illegible]
Syria	3	1	0	2	1	8	[illegible]
Qatar	3	0	1	2	1	4	[illegible]

Group B

13.04.95 Spain v Burundi ..... 5-[illegible]
14.04.95 Chile v Japan ..... 2-[illegible]
16.04.95 Burundi v Chile ..... 1-[illegible]
17.04.95 Spain v Japan ..... 2-[illegible]
19.04.95 Japan v Burundi ..... 2-[illegible]
19.04.95 Spain v Chile ..... 6-[illegible]

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SPAIN	3	3	0	0	13	5	[illegible]
JAPAN	3	1	1	1	5	4	[illegible]
Chile	3	0	2	1	6	9	[illegible]
Burundi	3	0	1	2	2	8	[illegible]

Group C

14.04.95 Portugal v Honduras ..... 3-[illegible]
16.04.95 Holland v Honduras ..... 7-[illegible]
17.04.95 Portugal v Argentina 1-0
20.04.95 Portugal v Holland 3-0
20.04.95 Argentina v Honduras 4-2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PORTUGAL	3	3	0	0	7	2	[illegible]
ARGENTINA	3	2	0	1	5	3	[illegible]
Holland	3	1	0	2	7	5	[illegible]
Honduras	3	0	0	3	5	14	[illegible]

Group D

13.04.95 Australia v Costa Rica 2-0
14.04.95 Cameroon v Germany 1-1
16.04.95 Cameroon v Australia 3-2
17.04.95 Costa Rica v Germany 2-1
20.04.95 Australia v German 1-1
20.04.95 Cameroon v Costa Rica 3-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CAMEROON	3	2	1	0	7	4	[illegible]
AUSTRALIA	3	1	1	1	5	4	[illegible]
Costa Rica	3	1	0	2	3	6	[illegible]
Germany	3	0	2	1	3	4	[illegible]

SEMI-FINALS *(April 25)*

ARGENTINA 3 (Biagini 21, Coyette 53, Chaparro 80)
SPAIN 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Albrecht (Ger
Argentina: Irigoytia – Pena, Domin-guez, Lombardi, Mariano, Sorin, Guerrero (Payon 59), Larrosa (Chappar 78), Ibagaza, Biagini, Coyette.
Spain: Lopez Vallejo – Salgado (Otxoa 46), Cesar, Cuartero, Cordon, Luis Martinez (Michel), De la Pena, Roger, Toni, Raul, Etxeberria (Morientes 57).

BRAZIL 1 (Caio 90)
PORTUGAL 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Rebolledo (Me
Brazil: Fabio – Dedimar, Fabiano, Marcelo, Ze Elias, Leonardo Elder, Cai Glaucio, Murilo, Luizao.
Portugal: Joaquim Quim – Agostinho Ribeiro, Carlos Mariano, Roberto Beto, Diogo Matos, Nuno Ribeiro, Alfredo Bo Carlos Filipe, Bruno Caires, Rui Oscar, Dani Carvalho (Jorge Medureira 81).

3RD PLACE PLAY-OFF *(April 2*

PORTUGAL 3 (Nuno Ribeiro 69, 81 Dani Carvalho 72)
SPAIN 2 (Salgado 25, De la Pena 38
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 14,000. **Ref:** Abdul-Rahn al-Zeid (SAr).
Portugal: Nuno Avelino – Jorge Madureira (Ricardo Ramires 46), Jose Soares, Agostinho Ribeiro, Carlos Mariano (Edgar Ribeiro 60), Diogo Ma Nuno Ribeiro, Carlos Filipe, Bruno Cai (Mario Silva 46), Rui Oscar, Dani Carvalho.
Spain: Lopez Vallejo – Cordon (Lizar 46), Luis Martinez, Cesar, Cuartero, Salgado, De La Pena, Roger, Munoz, Morientes, Otxoa (Alberto Sanchez 67

FINAL *(April 28)*

ARGENTINA 2 (Leonardo Biagini 25, Francisco Guerrero 83)
BRAZIL 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Gallagher (Eng).
Argentina: Irigoytia (Pezutti 90) – Pena, Dominguez, Lombardi, Mariano, Sorin, Larrosa, Ibagaza, Biagini (Guerrero 85), Coyette, Chaparro (Arangio 62).
Brazil: Fabio – Dedimar, Fabiano, Ze Elias, Leonardo, Reinaldo (Denilson 81), Elder (Luizao 56), Caio, Glaucio, Cesar, Murilo (Claudinho 72).

LIBERTADORES CUP – 1995

1st round

Group 1

March 8 = in Montevideo, Uruguay.
PENAROL (Uru) 1 (Otero)
RIVER PLATE (Arg) 1 (Francescoli)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Tejada (Peru). **Att:** 25,000.
Penarol: Ferro, Olivera, Aguirregaray, Rotundo, Lima, Balbiena, Dorta, Bengoechea, Pacheco (De los Santos), Rodriguez (Otero), D. Silva.
River Plate: Burgos, Diaz, C. Ayala, Corti, Lavallen, Almeyda, Astrada, Berti, Cedres (Silvani), Francescoli, Amato.

March 9 = in Montevideo, Uruguay.
CERRO (Uru) 1 (Cabrera)
INDEPENDIENTE (Arg) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Amaldo Amao (Peru).
Cerro: Rodriguez, Velazco, Torales, Bartora, Silva, Almada, De los Santos, Viera, Homman (Jonnes), Cabrera, Acosta (Ferreira).
Independiente: Islas, Craviotto, Arzeno, Serrizuela, Rios, Gomez, Cascini, Cagna, Ramirez, Vidal, Mazzoni.

March 15 = in Montevideo, Uruguay.
PENAROL (Uru) 2 (Silva, Magallanes)
CERRO (Uru) 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** J Matto (Uru). **Att:** 20,000.
Cerro: Rodriguez, Velazco, Madrid, Bartora, P. Silva, De los Santos (Luzardo), Almada, Homman, Viera, Ferreira (Gonzalez), Acosta.
Penarol: Ferro, Tea, Aguirregaray, Rotunda, Lima, Balbiena, Dorta, Bengoechea, Otero, D. Silva (Magallanes), Romero (Rodriguez).

March 30 = in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
RIVER PLATE (Arg) 2 (Berti, Diaz)
INDEPENDIENTE (Arg) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Roberto Ruscio (Arg).
River Plate: Sodero, Diaz, R. Ayala, Coti, Altamirano, Almeyda, Astrada, Berti, Gallardo, Ortega, Amato.
Independiente: Islas, Craviotto, Rotchen, Arzeno, Rios, Cagna, Cascini, Garnero, Burruchaga, Usunaga (Mazzoni), Rambert.

Group 2

March 22 = in Asuncion, Paraguay.
CERRO PORTENO (Par) 2 (Villamayor, Gamarra)
OLIMPIA (Par) 2 (Estiche, Samaniego)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Salvador Imperatore (Chile). **Att:** 25,000.
Cerro Porteno: Fernandez, Gomez, Sanabria, Gamarra, Alcaraz, Villamayor, Cohener (Espinoza), Struway, Torales, Cabanas (Del Valle), Ferreira.
Olimpia: Arbiza, Caceres, Caballero, E. Sarabia, Fernandez (Canisa), Suarez, Jara Heyn, V. Sanabria, Escoche, Baez, Samaniego (Amarilla).

In Caracas, Venezuela.
CARACAS FC (Ven) 3 (Gerson Diaz, Salisu 2)
TRUJILLANOS (Ven) 2 (Chagas, Duran)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Giovanni Periuzzo (Ven).
Caracas FC: Baena, Bencoma, Vitali, Malonado, Martinez, Berruti, Hezzel, G. Diaz, S. Rivas, Salisu, Contreras (Giraldo).
Trujillanos: Garcia, Alastre, Alvarez, Duran, Lupi, Torres (Valiente), Celedon (Rosas), Valbuena, Rengifo, Chagas, Ibarguren.

March 28 = in Valera, Venezuela.
TRUJILLANOS (Ven) 1 (Chagas)
CERRO PORTENO (Par) 2 (Ferreira, Del Valle)
HT: 0-1.
Trujillanos: Garcia, Alastre, Alvarez (Torres), Betancourt, Duran, Lup, Celedon (Caraballo), Valbuena, Chagas, Renfigo, Ibarguren.
Cerro Porteno: Fernandez, Villamayor, Cristaldo, Gamarra, Alcaraz, Struway (Enciso), Ferreira, Torales, Gomez (Cohener), Del Valle, Cabanas.

March 30 = in Caracas, Venezuela.
CARACAS FC (Ven) 0
CERRO PORTENO (Par) 6 (Nunez 3, Torales 3)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Alfredo Rodas (Ecu).
Caracas FC: Baena, Bencomo, Hezzel, Maldonado, Martinez, Bolivar, Cavallo (Gallardo), Diaz, Mendoza, Salisu, Contreras (Giraldo).
Cerro Porteno: Fernandez, Alcaraz, Cristaldo, Gamarra, Villamayuor, Struway, Gomez, Cabanas (Cohener), Del Valle, Ferreira, Nunez (Torales).

Group 3

March 6 = in Bogota, Colombia.
MILLONARIOS (Col) 1 (Dominguez)
UNIVERSIDAD DE CHILE 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Zambrano (Ecu). **Att:** 45,000
Millonarios: Villagra, Dominguez, Alvarez, Rojas, Rivas, Y. Mosquera, B. Mosquera, Ramirez, Rendon (A. Valderrama), Leon, Iguaran (J. de Silva).
Univ. de Chile: Vergas, Castaneda, Abarca, Fuentes, Ponce, Mardones, Mussri, Valencia, Castaneda (Goldberg), Bravo (Mora), Salas.

March 10 = in Medellin, Colombia.
NACIONAL (Col) 1 (Angel)
UNIVERSIDAD DE CHILE 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** A Rodas (Ecu). **Att:** 35,000.
Nacional: Higuita, Herrera, Marulanda, Foronda, Santa, Gaviria, Gutierrez, Serna, Garcia (Angel), Ceballos (Angulo), Aristizabal.
Univ. de Chile: S. Vargas, C. Castaneda (Bravo), Abarca, Fuentes, Ponce, Mardones, Mussri, Valencia, V. Castaneda, Bravo, Salas.

March 15 = in Bogota, Colombia.
MILLONARIOS (Col) 2 (Leon, Rendon)
NACIONAL (Col) 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** O Ruiz (Col). **Att:** 50,000.
Millonarios: Villagra, Rivas, Lopez, Alvarez, Dominguez, B. Mosquera, Y. Mosquera, Rendon, Ramirez, Leon, Da Silva.
Nacional: Higuita, Herrera, Marulanda, Faronda, Santa, Gaviria, Gutierrez (Angel), Serna, Garcia, Angulo, Aristizabal.

In Santiago, Chile.
UNIV. CATOLICA (Chi) 2 (Acosta, Gorosito)
UNIVERSIDAD DE CHILE 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 40,000.

March 21 = in Santiago, Chile.
UNIV. CATOLICA (Chile) 4 (Acosta, Rozental, Lopez, Lunari)
MILLONARIOS (Col) 1 (Leon)
HT: 3-1. **Ref:** F Lamolina (Arg). **Att:** 17,000
Univ. Catolica: Tapia, Romero, Vazquez, Lopez, Tupper, Lepe, Parraguez, McNiven (Lunari), Gorosito, Acosta (Barticciotto), Rozental.
Millonarios: Sanchez, Diaz, Rojas, Alvarez, Uribe, B. Mosquera, Y. Mosquera, Viera (A. Valderrama), Ramirez, Leon, Osman.

March 24 = in Santiago, Chile.
UNIVERSIDAD DE CHILE 3 (Salas 2, Goldberg)
MILLONARIOS (Col) 2 (Leon 2)
HT: 2-1. **Ref:** L Oliveto (Arg). **Att:** 35,000.
Univ. Chile: S. Vargas, C. Castaneda, Abarca, Traverso, Ponce, Valencia, Mardones (Bascunan), Romero, Acosta, Goldberg, Salas.
Millonarios: Cancelarich, Diaz, B. Mosquera, Leon, Ramirez, Y. Mosquera, Alvarez, Valderrama. A., Osmao, Uribe, Ramirez.

Group 4

March 7 = in Quito, Ecuador.
NACIONAL (Ecu) 1 (Arroyo pen)
PALMEIRAS (Bra) 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Felipe Rossi (Col)
Nacional: Chiriboga, Rosero (De la Cruz), Ayobi, Arangono, Arroyo, Constante, Ruiz, Castaneda, Carrera (Pavon), Delgado, Bernaza.
Palmeiras: Veloso, Antonio Carlos, Tonhao, Roberto Carlos, Mancuso (Alber), Amaral, Flavio Conceizao, Pablo Isidoro, Valber (Mauricio), Edmundo, Rivaldo.

March 10 = in Guayaquil, Ecuador.
EMELEC (Ecu) 1 (Vidal Gonzalez)
PALMEIRAS (Bra) 3 (Roberto Carlos 2, Rivaldo)
HT: 0-1.
Emelec: Espinoza, Coronel, I. Hurtado, Porozo, Capurro, Fajardo, Tenorio, Vasquez, Ron (E. Hurtado), Fernandez, Gonzales.
Palmeiras: Veloso, Indio, Antonio Carlos, Tonhao, Roberto Carlos, Mancuso, Flavio, Maurilio (Danil), Amaral, Paulo Isidoro, Rivaldo.

March 14 = in Guayaquil, Ecuador.
EMELEC (Ecu) 2 (Kleber, Hurtado E.)
GREMIO (Bra) 2 (P Nunes, Jardel)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Jose Da Rosa (Uru).
Emelec: Espinoza, Coronel, Tenorio, I. Hurtado, Capurro, Fajardo, Verduga (Ron), Vasquez, Georgino, Gonzalez, E. Hurtado.
Gremio: Danrley, Arce, Luciano, Wagner, Roger, Goyhano, Tinho, Mancini (Alexandre), Paulo Nunes (Mgno), Jardel, Carlos Miguel.

March 17 = in Quito, Ecuador.
NACIONAL (Ecu) 1 (Bernaza)
GREMIO (Bra) 2 (Arce 2)
HT: 0-1.
Nacional: Chiriboga, Valencia, Ayobi, Arangono, Arroyo, Ruiz, Castaneda, Constante, Carrera, Delgado, Bernaza.
Gremio: Danrley, Arce, Luciano, Adilson, Roger, Luis Carlos, Andre, Vieira, Mancini (Alexandre), Pablo Nunez, Jardel (Carlos Miguel).

March 22 = in Quito, Ecuador.
NACIONAL (Ecu) 0
EMELEC (Ecu) 2 (Capurro, Fernandez)
HT: 0-0.
Nacional: Chiriboga, Carcelen, Auobi, Arangono, Arroyo, Constantes, Ruiz, Castaneda (Sanchez), De la Cruz, Bernaza, Delgado.
Emelec: Espinoza, Quintero, I. Hurtado, Tenorio, Capurro, Vasquez, Verduga, Fajardo (Smith), Jorginho (Fernandez), Vidal, E. Hurtador.

In Porto Alegre, Brazil.
GREMIO (Bra) 0
PALMEIRAS (Bra) 0
Gremio: Danrlei, Arce, Luciano, Adilson, Roger, Dinho, Goiano, Carlos Alberto, Paulo Nunes, Jardel, Alexandre.
Palmeiras: Velloso, Indio, Antonio Carlos, Tonhao, Roberto Carlos, Paulo Isidoro, Amaral, Valber, Mancuso, Edmundo, Rivaldo.

March 28 = in Sao Paulo, Brazil.
PALMEIRAS (Bra) 2 (Edmundo 2, [1 pen])
EMELEC (Ecu) 2 (E. Hurtado)
HT: 1-0.

March 31 = in Porto Alegre, Brazil.
GREMIO (Bra) 4 (Jardel, Luciano, Paulo Nunes, Magno)
EMELEC (Ecu) 1 (Gonzalez)
HT: 3-1. **Ref:** Eduardo Diurniewski (Uru).
Gremio: Danrlei, Arce, Luciano, Adilson, Roger, Dinho, Goiano, Carlos Miguel, Jardel, Paulo Nunes (Magno), Adilson.
Emelec: Espinoza, Quinteros, I. Hurtado, Tenorio, Capurro, Verduga, Vasquez, Jorginho, Ron, Gonzalez, E. Hurtado.

Group 5

March 8 = in Lima, Peru.
ALIANZA LIMA (Peru) 1 (Pineda)
SPORTING CRISTAL (Peru) 1 (Palacios)
HT: 0-1. At: 17,000.
Alianza: Pizarro, Basombrio, Ruiz, Sozzani, Enrique (Saenz), Legario, Rodriguez, Hinostroza, Maruinho, Muchotrigo, Lente (Kopriva).
Sp. Cristal: Balerio, Ramirez, Soto, Prado, Palacios, Garay, Pineda (Pinillos), Solano, Julinho (Marco Roberto), Maestri, Soto.

In Cochabamba, Bolivia.
JORGE WILSTERMAN (Bol) 1 (Angola)
BOLIVAR (Bol) 1 (Mercado)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Pablo Pena (Bol).
Wilsterman: Galarza, Torrico, Kekes, Salguero, Campos, Angulo, Menezes, Cortez, Urruti, Maladot, Angola.
Bolivar: N'Kono, Borja, Jiguchi, Rimba, Sandy, Castillo, Melgar, Soria (M. Ramos), Baldivieso, Mir, Mercado.

March 14 = in Lima, Peru.
ALIANZA LIMA (Peru) 6 Marquinho, Saenz 2, Lente 2, Rosales)
JORGE WILSTERMAN (Bol) 1 (Takeo)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Raul Perez (Ven).
Alianza: Pizarro, Basombrio, Ruiz, Sozzani, Hinostroza, Rodriguez, Marquinho, Jayo, Lente, Saenz, Muchotrigo.
Wilsterman: Galarza, Torrico, Salguero, Kekes, Urruti, Meneses, Cortez, Parada, Takeo (Ibanez), Gonzales, Angola.

March 17 = in Lima, Peru.
SPORTING CRISTAL (Peru) 7 (Palacios 3, Earl, Soto, Solano, Bica pen)
JORGE WILSTERMAN (Bol) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Paolo Borgossano (Ven).
Sp. Cristal: Balerio, Prado, Jorge Soto, Jose Soto, Earl, Solano, Magallanes, Garay, Palacios, Julinho, Maestri.
Wilsterman: Galarza, Torrico, Salguero, Kekes, Campos, Urruti, Parada, Cortez, Angulo, Gonzales, Angola.

March 21 = in Lima, Peru.
ALIANZA LIMA (Peru) 1 (Marquinho)
BOLIVAR (Bol) 1 (Mercado)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 43,119.
Alianza: Pizarro, Sozzani, Ruiz, Basombrio, Enrique, Rodriguez, Hinostroza, Kopriva, Marquinho, Miuchotrigo, Lente.
Bolivar: N'Kono, J. Ruiz, Rimba, Sandy, Castillo, Soria, Borja, Melgar, Mercado, Rios, Ramos.

March 24 = in Lima, Peru.
SPORTING CRISTAL (Peru) 1 (Bica)
BOLIVAR (Bol) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** O Godoi (Bra). **Att:** 26,000.
Sp. Cristal: Balerio, Earl, Prado, Jose Soto, Jorge Soto, Solano, Garay, Palacios, Magallanes, Maestri (Bica), De Andrade (Rivera).
Bolivar: N'Kono, Jiguchi, Sandy, Rimba, Castillo, Soria, Borja, Melgar, Ruiz, Cueto (Ramos), Mercado.

1st round

Group 1

(Argentina & Uruguay)

19.02.95	Independiente v River Plate	1-1
19.02.95	Penarol v Cerro	3-3
22.02.95	Independiente v Penarol	2-1
23.02.95	River Plate v Cerro	1-0
08.03.95	Penarol v River Plate	1-1
09.03.95	Cerro v Independiente	1-0
15.03.95	Cerro v Penarol	0-2
29.03.95	River Plate v Independiente	2-0
13.04.95	Cerro v River Plate	0-5
14.04.95	Penarol v Independiente	1-0
19.04.95	River Plate v Penarol	1-1
20.04.95	Independiente v Cerro	2-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
RIVER PLATE	6	3	3	0	11	3	12
PENAROL	6	2	3	1	9	7	9
INDEPENDIENTE	6	2	1	3	5	7	7
CERRO	6	1	1	4	5	13	4

Group 2

(Paraguay & Venezuela)

15.02.95	Olimpia v Cerro Porteno	1-1
15.02.95	Trujillanos v Caracas	1-3
21.02.95	Olimpia v Caracas	5-0
24.02.95	Cerro Porteno v Caracas	2-1
28.02.95	Trujillanos v Olimpia	2-2
03.03.95	Caracas v Olimpia	1-2
22.03.95	Cerro Porteno v Olimpia	2-2
22.03.95	Caracas v Trujillanos	3-2
28.03.95	Trujillanos v Cerro Porteno	1-2
31.03.95	Caracas v Cerro Porteno	0-6
04.04.95	Olimpia v Trujillanos	4-1
07.04.95	Cerro Porteno v Trujillanos	3-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CERRO PORTENO	6	4	2	0	16	6	14
OLIMPIA	6	3	3	0	16	7	12
CARACAS	6	2	0	4	8	16	6
TRUJILLANOS	6	0	1	5	8	17	1

Group 3

(Chile & Colombia)

10.02.95	Univ. de Chile v Univ. Catolica	4-1
15.02.95	At. Nacional v Millonarios	0-0
21.02.95	Millonarios v Univ. Catolica	5-1
24.02.95	At. Nacional v Univ. Catolica	3-1
07.03.95	Millonarios v Univ. de Chile	1-0
10.03.95	At. Nacional v Univ. de Chile	1-0
15.03.95	Univ. Catolica v Univ. de Chile	2-0
15.03.95	Millonarios v At. Nacional	2-0
21.03.95	Univ. Catolica v Millonarios	4-1
24.03.95	Univ. de Chile v Millonarios	3-2
04.04.95	Univ. Catolica v At. Nacional	1-1
07.04.95	Univ. de Chile v At. Nacional	0-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MILLONARIOS	6	3	1	2	11	8	10
AT. NACIONAL	6	2	3	1	5	4	9
UNIV. DE CHILE	6	2	1	3	7	7	7
UNIV. CATOLICA	6	2	1	3	10	14	7

Play-off: Univ Catolica v Univ. de Chile 4-1

Group 4

(Ecuador & Brazil)

21.02.95	Palmeiras v Gremio	3-2
22.02.95	Emelec v Nacional	1-1
07.03.95	Nacional v Palmeiras	1-0
10.03.95	Emelec v Palmeiras	1-3
14.03.95	Emelec v Gremio	2-2
17.03.95	Nacional v Gremio	1-2
22.03.95	Gremio v Palmeiras	0-0
23.03.95	Nacional v Emelec	0-2
28.03.95	Palmeiras v Emelec	2-1
31.03.95	Gremio v Emelec	4-1
04.04.95	Palmeiras v Nacional	7-0
07.04.95	Gremio v Nacional	2-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PALMEIRAS	6	4	1	1	15	5	13
GREMIO	6	3	2	1	12	7	11
EMELEC	6	1	2	3	8	12	5
NACIONAL	6	1	1	4	3	14	4

Group 5

(Peru & Bolivia)

08.02.95	Bolivar v Wilsterman	2-0
08.02.95	Spt. Cristal v Alianza Lima	3-0
14.02.95	Wilsterman v Alianza Lima	2-1
18.02.95	Bolivar v Alianza Lima	3-1
21.02.95	Wilsterman v Sporting Cristal	2-2
24.02.95	Bolivar v Sporting Cristal	1-1
08.03.95	Alianza Lima v Sporting Cristal	1-1
08.03.95	Wilsterman v Bolivar	1-1
14.03.95	Alianza Lima v Wilsterman	6-1
17.03.95	Sporting Cristal v Wilsterman	7-0
21.03.95	Alianza Lima v Bolivar	1-1
24.03.95	Sporting Cristal v Bolivar	1-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SPT CRISTAL	6	3	3	0	15	4	12
BOLIVAR	6	2	3	1	8	5	9
ALIANZA	6	1	2	3	10	11	5
WILSTERMAN	6	1	2	3	6	19	5

2nd round

1st leg

25.04.95	Olimpia v Gremio	0-3
26.04.95	Emelec v Cerro Porteno	2-0
26.04.95	Alianza Lima v Millonarios	1-1
26.04.95	Bolivar v Palmeiras	1-0
26.04.95	Caracas FC v Sporting Cristal	2-2
26.04.95	At. Nacional v Penarol	3-1
26.04.95	Velez Sarsfield v Independiente	3-0
27.04.95	Univ. Catolica v River Plate	2-1

2nd leg

03.05.95	River Plate v Univ. Catolica	3-1
	River Plate won 4-2 on agg	
03.05.95	Cerro Porteno v Emelec	2-0
	Agg: 2-2, Emelec won 5-4 on pens	
03.05.95	Millonarios v Alianza Lima	2-0
	Millonarios won 3-1 on agg	
03.05.95	Palmeiras v Bolivar	3-0
	Palmeiras won 3-1 on agg	
03.05.95	Penarol v At. Nacional	1-3
	Atletico Nacional won 6-2 on agg	
03.05.95	Gremio v Olimpia	2-0
	Gremio won 5-0 on agg	
03.05.95	Velez Sarsfield v Independiente	
04.05.95	Sporting Cristal v Caracas FC	6-3
	Sporting won 8-5 on agg	

Quarter-finals

1st leg

26.07.95	River Plate v Emelec	
26.07.95	Millonarios v Palmeiras	
26.07.95	Sporting Crystal v At. Nacional	
26.07.95	Gremio v Velez Sarsfield	

2nd leg

02.08.95	Emelec v River Plate	*(I)*
02.08.95	Palmeiras v Millonarios	*(J)*
02.08.95	At. Nacional v Sporting Crystal	*(K)*
02.08.95	Velez Sarsfield v Gremio	*(L)*

Semi-finals

1st leg

09.08.95	Winner I v Winner J
09.08.95	Winner K v Winner L

2nd leg

16.08.95	Winner J v Winner I
16.08.95	Winner L v Winner K

Final

1st leg

23.08.95	semi-final winners

2nd leg

30.08.95	semi-final winners

MASTERS CUP

(For Super Cup winners)

Final – 1st leg
March 11 = in Asuncion, Paraguay
OLIMPIA (Par) 0
CRUZEIRO (Bra) 0

Final – 2nd leg
March 17 = in Belo Horizonte, Brazil
CRUZEIRO 1
OLIMPIA 0
Cruzeiro won 1-0 on agg
NB: *Other clubs qualified to take part withdrew owing to fixture congestion.*

PANAMERICAN GAMES

(Mar del Plata, Argentina: March 10-24)

GROUP A
PARAGUAY 2 HONDURAS 0
ARGENTINA 3 US 0
PARAGUAY 2 US 0
ARGENTINA 2 HONDURAS 2
HONDURAS 4 US 0
ARGENTINA 1 PARAGUAY 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Argentina	3	2	1	0	6	2	7
Paraguay	3	2	0	1	4	1	6
Honduras	3	1	1	1	6	4	4
United States	3	0	0	3	0	9	0

RESULTS

Copa America fixtures . . . African Nations Cup results & tables . . .

GROUP B

CHILE 1 BERMUDA 0
BRAZIL 2 COSTA RICA 1
COSTA RICA 4 CHILE 1
BRAZIL 2 BERMUDA 0
COSTA RICA 5 BERMUDA 0
BRAZIL 1 CHILE 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
Costa Rica	3	2	0	1	10	3	6
Chile	3	1	1	1	3	5	4
Bermuda	3	0	0	3	0	8	0

GROUP C

COLOMBIA 0 TRINIDAD 0
MEXICO 4 ECUADOR 2
MEXICO 1 TRINIDAD 0
COLOMBIA 5 ECUADOR 0
ECUADOR 4 TRINIDAD 1
MEXICO 3 COLOMBIA 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mexico	3	3	0	0	8	2	9
Colombia	3	2	0	1	7	3	6
Ecuador	3	1	0	2	6	10	3
Trinidad	3	0	0	3	1	7	0

QUARTER-FINALS

ARGENTINA 1 CHILE 0
COLOMBIA 2 PARAGUAY 0
MEXICO 3 COSTA RICA 2
HONDURAS 0 BRAZIL 0
Honduras won 8-7 on pens

SEMI-FINALS

ARGENTINA 3 (Gallardo 2, [1pen], Ayala)
HONDURAS 2 (Romero, Cruz pen)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 15,000 *(Mar 21)*. **Ref:** Nestor Mondria (Chile)
Argentina: Bossio – Zanetti, Ayala, Pez, Arruabarrena, Monserrat, Bassedas, Cagna, Gallardo, Ortega, Rambert.
Honduras: Flores – Lagos, Cruz, Castro (Oseguara), Suerra, Guevara, Lopez, Romero, Pineda, Pavon, Suazo.

MEXICO 2 (Salvador 2)
COLOMBIA 1 (Ricard)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 5,000 *(Mar 22)*. **Ref:** Ronald Gutierrez (Arg)
Mexico: Sanchez – Villa, Ayala, Luna, Pardo, Lara, Arellano, R Garcia, Hernandez, Blanco, Salvador.
Colombia: Cordoba – J Velez, Dinas, Prtegon, Gonzalez, Quinones, Zapata, Valencia, Betancurt, Ricard, Alcibar.

3RD PLACE PLAY-OFF

COLOMBIA 3 (Zapata, Quinones, Zambrano)
HONDURAS 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 40,000 (Mar 24). **Ref:** J J Bernabe (Arg)
Colombia: Cordoba – Ortegon, J Velez, Valencia, Maplas, Zapata, Dinas, Quinones, Gonzalez, Alcibar (Castillo), Zambrano.
Honduras: Flores – Cabrera, Cruz, Lopez, Bustillo, Oseguara, Pineda, Medina, Romero, Suazo, Perdomo.

FINAL

ARGENTINA 0
MEXICO 0
Att: 40,000 (Mar 24). **Ref:** Guevara (Ecu)
Argentina won 5-4 on pens
Argentina: Bossio – Zanetti, Ayala, Paz, Sorin, Cagna (Monserrat), Jimenez, Bassedas, Gallardo, Ortega, Rambert (Barros Schelotto).
Mexico: Sanchez – Lopez, Ayala, Luna, Arellano, Lara, R Garcia, Villa, Sol (Blanco), Napoles (A Garcia).

COPA AMERICA

(in Uruguay)

JUL 5: Uruguay v Venezuela
JUL 6: Mexico v Paraguay
JUL 7: Colombia v Peru
JUL 7: Brazil v Ecuador
JUL 8: United States v Chile
JUL 8: Argentina v Bolivia
JUL 9: Uruguay v Paraguay
JUL 9: Mexico v Venezuela
JUL 10: Colombia v Ecuador
JUL 10: Brazil v Peru
JUL 11: United States v Bolivia
JUL 11: Argentina v Chile
JUL 12: Paraguay v Venezuela
JUL 12: Uruguay v Mexico
JUL 13: Peru v Ecuador
JUL 13: Brazil v Colombia
JUL 14: Chile v Bolivia
JUL 14: Argentina v United States
QUARTER-FINALS (July 16-17)
SEMI-FINALS (July 19-20)
3RD PLACE PLAY-OFF (July 22, in Maldonaldo)
FINAL (July 23, in Montevideo)

PARAGUAY

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
GROUP A: 1) Libertad 6pts; 2) Cerro Porteno, Boqueron 3.
GROUP B: 1) Sol de America 8; 2) Cerro Cora 7; 3) Sport Colombia 5; 4) Olimpia (Villa Rica) 1.
GROUP C: 1) 3 de Febrero 10; 2) Guarani 8; 3) Presidente Hayes 4; 4) 1 de Marzo 0.
GROUP D: 1) Sportivo Luqueno 8; 2) Colegiales 7; 3) 12 de Octubre 6; 4) San Lorenzo 1.
GROUP E: 1) Humaita 10; 2) Nacional 9; 3) Cerro Porteno (Oviedo) 4; 4) Sportivo Obrero 0.

ARGENTINA

NATIONAL A DIVISION– *CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Boca Juniors	6	4	2	0	12	4	10
Lanus	6	5	0	1	12	5	10
Velez Sarsfield	6	4	1	1	9	3	9
San Lorenzo	6	4	1	1	7	4	9
Rosario Central	6	3	2	1	11	6	8
Gim. La Plata	6	2	3	1	10	5	7
Independiente	6	3	1	2	8	5	7
River Plate	6	2	2	2	12	11	6
Banfield	6	3	0	3	6	6	6
Platense	6	1	3	1	4	4	6
Talleres Cordoba	6	1	4	1	5	6	6
FC Oeste	6	2	2	2	5	8	6
Dep.Espanol	6	2	1	3	4	8	5
Huracan	6	0	5	1	5	6	5
Racing Club	6	1	3	2	6	7	5
Dep.Mandiyu	6	1	2	3	4	6	4
Gimnasia Jujuy	6	0	4	2	5	9	4
Argentinos Jun	6	1	1	4	6	14	3
Belgrano	6	1	0	5	2	11	2
Newell's OB	6	0	2	4	4	13	2

Bottom relegation averages (based on points over last two seasons and present one – bottom two relegated): Platense 0,871; Newell's OB 0,851; Mandiyu 0,811; Jujuy 0,760; Talleres 0,600.

BRAZIL

RIO DE JANEIRO CHAMPIONSHIP
SECOND ROUND – FINAL STANDINGS
GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	T
Botafogo	7	7	0	0	24	1	21	33
Vasco	7	4	2	1	12	9	14	31
America	7	2	4	1	12	8	10	21
Itaperuna	7	1	4	2	3	4	7	17
Olaria	7	2	1	4	6	10	7	11
Barreira	7	1	4	2	5	9	7	13
Entrerriense	7	2	1	4	9	18	7	21
Sao Cristovao	7	0	1	5	6	18	2	4
GROUP B								
Volta Redonda	7	4	2	1	11	6	14	23
Flamengo	7	4	2	1	16	9	14	31
Fluminense	7	3	3	1	11	5	12	28
Banqu	7	2	5	0	8	5	11	22
Campo Grande	7	1	3	3	2	7	6	7
Friburgense	7	1	3	3	4	10	6	10
Madureira	7	1	2	4	3	9	5	20
Americano	7	0	4	3	1	5	4	9

T = *total points obtained in both rounds*

SAO PAULO STATE LEAGUE
FIRST DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Corinthians	13	6	6	1	25	10	24
Portuguesa	13	6	6	1	19	12	24
Sao Paulo	12	7	2	3	23	12	23
Santos	13	6	5	2	26	16	23
Palmeiras	13	6	3	4	26	18	21
Rio Branco	13	5	5	3	23	18	20
Guarani	13	5	3	5	18	18	18
Aracatuba	13	6	0	7	17	22	18
America	13	4	5	4	14	16	17
Ferroviaria	12	5	1	6	11	14	16
XV de Piracicaba	12	4	3	5	18	17	15
Uniao Sao Joao	13	4	3	6	16	20	15
Novorizontino	13	3	5	5	13	17	14
Juventus	13	3	3	7	9	17	12
Bragantino	13	2	4	7	14	23	10
Ponte Preta	12	2	2	7	11	33	8

Top seven plus winners of Second Division qualify for final round

BOLIVIA

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP – *AFTER 5 GAMES*
GROUP A: 1) Bolivar 10 pts; 2) Independiente 9; 3) Oriente Petrolero 6; 4) Real Santa Cruz 5; 5) Jorge Wilsterman, Guabira 2.
GROUP B: 1) San Jose 12; 2) The Strongest 10; 3) Stormers 9; 4) Ciclon 6; 5) Blooming 4; 6) Destroyers 0.

COLOMBIA

FIRST DIVISION
AFTER 10 GAMES: 1) Deportivo Cali 20pts; 2) Nacional 19; 3) America, At. Junior 18; 5) Independiente Santa Fe 17; 6) Independiente Medellin 15; 7) Quindio, Pereira 14; 9) Union Magdalena 12; 10) Tolima 11; 11) Cortulua, Cucuta 10; 13) Caldes 9; 14) Millonarios, Envigado 7; 16) Huila 2.

ECUADOR

FIRST DIVISION
AFTER 8 GAMES: 1) Green Cross, Espoli 19pts; 3) Aucas 16; 4) Barcelona 14; 5) Liga Univ. de Quito 12; 6) Dep. Quito, Nacional 10; 8 Olmedo 8; 9) 9 de Octubre 3; 10) Delfin 0.

PERU

NATIONAL DECENTRALIZED CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Universitario	5	4	0	1	12	4	12
Alianza Lima	5	4	0	1	8	2	12
Dep. Sipesa	5	3	2	0	10	2	11
FBC Melgar	5	3	0	2	7	6	9
Dep. San Agustin	5	2	2	1	10	8	6
Sport Boys	5	2	1	2	8	3	7
Dep. Municipal	5	2	1	2	9	7	7
Cienciano	5	2	1	2	7	7	7
Alianza Sulana	5	2	1	2	8	10	7
Union Huaral	5	1	3	1	7	6	6
Union Minas	4	2	0	2	5	6	6
Ciclista Lima	5	1	3	1	6	9	6
Sporting Cristal	4	1	1	2	5	6	4
Aurich Canana	5	1	1	3	6	8	4
Leon de Huanuco	5	0	1	4	2	10	1
At. Torino	5	0	1	4	3	19	1

CONCACAF TABLES

HONDURAS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olimpia	23	16	5	2	39	10	53
Motagua	22	12	8	2	34	17	44
Real Espana	23	9	8	6	24	19	35
Victoria	23	7	10	6	24	19	31
Real Maya	23	7	9	7	22	18	30
Marathon	23	7	6	10	25	27	27
Vida	23	5	9	9	28	38	23
Platense	22	4	9	9	16	23	21
Broncos	23	3	12	8	19	29	21
Dep. Progreseno	23	3	6	14	16	47	15

GUATEMALA

HEXAGONAL GROUP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Comunicaciones	8	5	3	0	18	4	13
Aurora	8	3	4	1	5	5	10
Sacachispas	8	3	2	3	8	7	8
Municipal	8	1	4	3	5	5	6
Xelaju	8	1	4	3	3	6	6
Suchitepequez	8	1	3	4	5	17	5
RELEGATION GROUP							
Coban Imperial	8	5	1	2	15	7	11
Amatitlan	8	4	1	3	14	11	9
Chiquimulilla	8	3	3	2	15	15	9
Escuintla	8	3	1	4	13	12	7
Mictlan	8	3	1	4	7	10	7
Izabal JC	8	1	3	4	9	18	5

MEXICO

GROUP 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Club America	33	19	10	4	82	40	48
Necaxa	33	16	12	5	62	30	44
UAG	33	13	12	8	48	46	38
Toros Neza	33	12	7	14	5	54	31
UANL	33	6	9	18	32	45	21
GROUP 2							
Cruz Azul	33	17	8	8	79	43	42
Veracruz	33	11	11	11	39	43	33
Atlante	33	10	10	13	46	58	30
UAT	33	9	10	14	40	55	28
Morelia	33	8	12	13	50	67	28
GROUP 3							
Guadalajara	33	20	8	5	64	33	48
UNAM	33	14	10	9	44	33	38
Puebla	33	11	15	7	37	34	37
Toluca	33	9	7	17	40	53	25
Tampico Madero	33	6	7	20	37	69	19
GROUP 4							
Santos	33	11	0	13	53	60	31
Atlas	34	11	8	15	39	49	30
Monterrey	34	8	14	12	32	49	30
Leon	34	10	9	15	36	51	29

COSTA RICA

FIRST PHASE – FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Saprissa	44	23	15	6	67	32	61
Alajuela	44	27	6	11	88	46	60
San Carlos	44	20	13	11	56	48	52
Herediano	44	20	11	13	59	50	51
Cartagines	44	16	17	11	57	38	49
Ramonense	44	19	9	16	53	52	47
Puntarenas	44	14	14	16	49	55	42
Perez Zeledon	44	13	16	15	48	45	42
Belen	44	9	17	18	32	54	35
Turrialba	44	9	15	20	37	45	33
Sagrada Familia	44	12	6	26	31	68	30
Limon	44	5	15	24	36	70	25
SECOND PHASE							
GROUP A							
Cartagines	1	1	0	0	2	1	2
Saprissa	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Puntarenas	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
San Carlos	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
GROUP B							
Alajuela	1	1	0	0	1	0	2
Herediano	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Ramonense	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Perez Zeldon	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

EL SALVADOR

FIRST DIVISION
AFTER 32 GAMES: 1) FAS 50pts; 2) Luis A. Firpo 48; 3) Aguila 41; 4) At. Marte 35; 5) Baygon-ADET 29; 6) El Roble, Tiburones 27; 8) Alianza, Municipal Limeno 24; 10) Cojutepeque 18.

MAJOR CLUB INTERNATIONALS

MAR 26: Club America (Mex) 1 Reggiana (Ita) 1.
Apr 17: FAS (ES) 2 Bolivar (Bol) 1.

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP – 1996

- *Nigeria qualify as holders*
- *South Africa qualify as hosts*

GROUP 1

04.09.94 Zaire v Malawi 1-1
04.09.94 Zimbabwe v Lesotho 5-0
15.10.94 Malawi v Zimbabwe 3-1
16.10.94 Cameroon v Zaire 1-0
13.11.94 Lesotho v Cameroon 2-0
13.11.94 Zimbabwe v Zaire 2-1
08.01.95 Cameroon v Malawi 0-0
08.01.95 Zaire v Lesotho 3-0
22.01.95 Lesotho v Malawi 0-2
22.01.95 Zimbabwe v Cameroon 4-1
09.04.95 Malawi v Zaire 1-1
09.04.95 Lesotho v Zimbabwe 0-2
23.04.95 Zaire v Cameroon 2-1
23.04.95 Zimbabwe v Malawi 1-1
04.06.95 Cameroon v Lesotho
04.06.95 Zaire v Zimbabwe
15.07.95 Malawi v Cameroon
16.07.95 Lesotho v Zaire
29.07.95 Malawi v Lesotho
30.07.95 Cameroon v Zimbabwe

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zimbabwe	6	4	1	1	15	6	9
Malawi	6	2	4	0	8	4	8
Zaire	6	2	2	2	8	6	6
Cameroon	5	1	1	3	3	8	3
Lesotho	5	1	0	4	2	12	2

- *Swaziland withdrew*

GROUP 2

03.09.94 Senegal v Mauritania 0-0
04.09.94 Guinea-Bissau v Tunisia 1-3
Result nulified, Guinea-Bissau withdrew
04.09.94 Liberia v Togo 1-0
14.10.94 Mauritania v Guinea-Bissau 1-1
Result nulified, Guinea-Bissau withdrew
16.10.94 Togo v Senegal 2-0
11.11.94 Mauritania v Liberia 1-1
13.11.94 Guinea-Bissau v Senegal 1-4
Result nulified, Guinea-Bissau withdrew
13.11.94 Tunisia v Togo 1-1
07.01.95 Senegal v Tunisia 0-0
08.01.95 Togo v Mauritania 0-0
22.01.95 Liberia v Senegal 1-1
29.01.95 Tunisia v Mauritania 1-0
10.02.95 Tunisia v Liberia 0-0
07.04.95 Mauritania v Senegal 0-1
09.04.95 Togo v Liberia 0-0
22.04.95 Senegal v Togo 5-1
23.04.95 Liberia v Tunisia 1-0
04.06.96 Liberia v Mauritania
04.06.95 Togo v Tunisia
14.07.95 Mauritania v Togo
16.07.95 Tunisia v Senegal
28.07.95 Mauritania v Tunisia
29.07.95 Senegal v Liberia

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liberia	6	2	4	0	4	2	8
Senegal	6	2	3	1	7	4	7
Tunisia	5	1	3	1	2	2	5
Togo	6	1	3	2	4	7	5
Mauritania	5	0	3	2	1	3	3

- *Guinea-Bissau withdrew*

GROUP 3

04.09.94 Congo v Gambia 1-1
04.09.94 Ghana v Sierra Leone 4-1
16.10.94 Niger v Ghana 1-5
16.10.94 Sierra Leone v Congo 3-2
12.11.94 Gambia v Ghana 1-2
13.11.94 Niger v Sierra Leone 4-2
07.01.95 Sierra Leone v Gambia 2-0
08.01.95 Congo v Niger 3-1
22.01.95 Ghana v Congo 3-1
22.01.95 Niger v Gambia 1-1
08.04.95 Sierra Leone v Ghana 1-0
09.04.95 Gambia v Congo 1-1
22.04.95 Congo v Sierra Leone 0-2
23.04.95 Ghana v Niger 1-0
04.06.95 Ghana v Gambia
04.06.95 Sierra Leone v Niger
16.07.95 Gambia v Sierra Leone
16.07.95 Niger v Congo
30.07.95 Congo v Ghana
30.07.95 Gambia v Niger

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ghana	6	5	0	1	15	5	10
Sierra Leone	6	4	0	2	11	10	8
Congo	6	1	2	3	8	11	4
Gambia	5	0	3	2	4	7	3
Niger	5	1	1	3	7	12	3

- *Central African Republic withdrew*

PGROUP 4

03.09.94 Tanzania v Uganda 4-0
04.09.94 Ethiopia v Algeria 0-0
04.09.94 Sudan v Egypt 0-0
14.10.94 Algeria v Sudan 1-1
14.10.94 Egypt v Tanzania 5-1
15.10.94 Uganda v Ethiopia 4-1
11.11.94 Egypt v Ethiopia 5-0
12.11.94 Tanzania v Sudan 2-0
12.11.95 Uganda v Algeria 1-1
07.01.95 Sudan v Uganda 3-1
08.01.95 Algeria v Egypt 1-0
08.01.95 Ethiopia v Tanzania 1-0
21.01.95 Tanzania v Algeria 2-1
21.01.95 Uganda v Egypt 0-0
22.01.95 Ethiopia v Sudan 2-0
07.04.95 Algeria v Ethiopia 2-0
07.04.95 Egypt v Sudan 3-1
08.04.95 Uganda v Tanzania 2-0
22.04.95 Tanzania v Egypt 1-2
23.04.95 Ethiopia v Uganda 0-0
24.04.95 Sudan v Algeria 2-0
02.06.95 Algeria v Uganda
04.06.95 Ethiopia v Egypt
04.06.95 Sudan v Tanzania
14.07.95 Egypt v Algeria
15.07.95 Tanzania v Ethiopia
15.07.95 Uganda v Sudan
28.07.95 Algeria v Tanzania
28.07.95 Egypt v Uganda
30.07.95 Sudan v Ethiopia

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Egypt	7	4	2	1	15	4	10
Algeria	7	2	3	2	6	6	7
Uganda	7	2	3	2	8	9	7
Tanzania	7	3	0	4	9	10	6
Sudan	7	2	2	3	7	9	6
Ethiopia	7	2	2	3	4	11	6

GROUP 5

04.09.94 Madagascar v Sth Africa 0-1
Result nulified, Madagascar withdrew
15.10.94 South Africa v Mauritius 1-0
*Result nulified, South Africa withdrew**
13.11.94 Gabon v Mauritius 3-0
13.11.94 Zambia v South Africa 1-1
*Result nulified, South Africa withdrew**
20.11.94 Gabon v Zambia 2-1
10.01.95 Mauritius v Zambia 0-3
08.04.95 Zambia v Gabon 1-0
04.06.95 Mauritius v Gabon
16.07.95 Zambia v Mauritius

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zambia	4	2	1	1	6	3	5
Gabon	3	2	0	1	5	2	4
Mauritius	2	0	0	2	0	6	0

- *Madagascar withdrew*
- *Seychelles withdrew*
- *South Africa withdrew after being named as hosts for the finals*

GROUP 6

04.09.94 Angola v Namibia 2-0
04.09.94 Botswana v Guinea 0-1
04.09.94 Mali v Mozambique 2-1
15.10.94 Namibia v Mali 2-1
16.10.94 Guinea v Angola 3-1
16.10.94 Mozambique v Botswana 3-1
30.10.94 Mali v Guinea 2-0
13.11.94 Mali v Angola 0-0
13.11.94 Mozambique v Guinea 2-1
13.11.94 Namibia v Botswana 1-1
08.01.95 Angola v Mozambique 1-0
08.01.95 Botswana v Mali 1-1
08.01.95 Guinea v Namibia 3-0
22.01.95 Botswana v Angola 1-2
22.01.95 Mozambique v Namibia 4-2
09.04.95 Namibia v Angola 2-2
09.04.95 Guinea v Botswana 5-0
09.04.95 Mozambique v Mali 1-0
23.04.95 Angola v Guinea 3-0
23.04.95 Mali v Namibia 2-0
23.04.95 Botswana v Mozambique 0-3
04.06.95 Angola v Mali
04.06.95 Botswana v Namibia
04.06.95 Guinea v Mozambique
16.07.95 Mali v Botswana
16.07.95 Mozambique v Angola
16.07.95 Namibia v Guinea
30.07.95 Angola v Botswana
30.07.95 Guinea v Mali
30.07.95 Namibia v Mozambique

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mozambique	7	5	0	2	14	7	10
Angola	7	4	2	1	11	6	10
Mali	7	4	1	2	10	5	9
Guinea	7	4	0	3	13	8	8
Namibia	7	1	2	4	7	15	4
Botswana	7	0	1	6	4	18	1

GROUP 7

04.09.94 Burkina Faso v Morocco 2-1
13.11.94 Morocco v Ivory Coast 1-0
22.01.95 Ivory Coast v Burkina Faso 2-2
09.04.95 Morocco v Burkina Faso 0-0
04.06.95 Ivory Coast v Morocco
30.07.95 Burkina Faso v Ivory Coast

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Burkina Faso	3	1	2	0	4	3	5
Morocco	3	1	1	1	2	2	3
Ivory Coast	2	0	1	1	2	3	1

- *Benin withdrew*
- *Cape Verde Islands withdrew*
- *Equatorial Guinea withdrew*

FOOTBALL COACHES AND TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

COACHING THROUGH THE AGES

WE now look forward to our Convention in Milton Keynes, June 22-25, when coaches from all around the world will be gather to meet, talk and discuss football and to watch some great coaches in action. The theme this year is Coaching Through the Age Groups and the programme of events will be:-

GROUP A 5-10 years
Falling in Love with the Game: Plenty of Ball, Plenty of Fun.

GROUP B 10-15 years
Developing Talent and Technique: Making a Player.

GROUP C 16-19 years
Decision Time - Continued Development:
Making a Team Player.

GROUP D 20+
Open Competition:
Improving Team Play and Tactical Awareness.
Transition into Coaching and Management.

KEVIN KEEGAN KICKS OFF AT NEWCASTLE

HAVING completed further successful days at Aylesbury and Birmingham, we report on the day at Newcastle, when we were again blessed with some great weather. We were delighted that Kevin Keegan took time out to address members at the start of the day; his comments about AFCAT were much appreciated.
Mike Kelly, goalkeeping coach extraordinaire, again put the Centre of Excellence keepers through their paces – at least they were warm.
Alf Galustian followed and showed again some excellent Coerver drills and some new ideas on opportunities for small-sided games.
Martin Hunter, FA North East Regional coach and Jeff Clarke, Newcastle United coach, gave us some great ideas for coaching sessions which will be reported as near as possible in the next issue of Catalyst.
Thanks to Rob Atkin and all the staff for their excellent support. To have people from Northern Ireland was an added bonus.
What a great membership we have and what fantastic support we are receiving from the professional clubs.

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BRIAN GLANVILLE'S
LAST WORD

Sad song for Europe

NO, dear readers, I wasn't in Italy to see Milan walk over Paris Saint-Germain and a bizarrely passive George Weah. How truly scandalous that the man can virtually be bought and sold between the two clubs virtually on the eve of their meetings in the European Cup semi-final.

How can UEFA permit such things? Nor was I in the Luigi Ferraris Stadium to see Arsenal and David Seaman's gallant survival against Sampdoria in the Cup-winners Cup. And that appalling early foul by the notoriously abrasive Riccardo Ferri on Ian Wright with not a card flourised by an inept referee.

This in turn reminded me of a displeasing incident at the Luigi Ferraris on the occasion of Sampdoria's previous home tie, against Porto, involving Samp's other ruthless central defender, Pietro Vierchowod. Sergei Yuran, Porto's Ukrainian striker, had left him for dead, and crossed. Only then did Vierchowod steal up and hack him down from behind. I'll give the English referee David Elleray the benefit of the doubt and assume he didn't see it. But didn't a linesman see it, either? Anyway, Vierochowod got clean (or dirty) away with it.

What I did see was a superb exhibition of passing by Chelsea's player-manager Glenn Hoddle when he went on as a second-half substitute against Zaragoza. As he explained afterwards, he played through the pain of an injured Achilles tendon and did so only because he thought his Norwegian defender, Erland Johnsen, was in even worse straits.

Super saver . . . Seaman sends Arsenal into the Cup-winners Cup Final

'What I did see was a superb exhibition of passing by Chelsea's player-manager Glenn Hoddle when he went on as a second-half substitute against Real Zaragoza'

At that point, Zaragoza, who already held an almost impregnable 3-0 lead from the first leg, were gaining control of the game, technically and imaginatively. But not to Hoddle, who proceeded to remind us what a glorious talent he had, or even has, and just how a native English player can still rival any Continental or South American with his skills.

Four days later, his natural heir as a Tottenham and England player, Paul Gascoigne, went on for only 13 minutes as substitute for Lazio in their winning derby against Roma in the Stadio Olimpico.

But in that brief time, he showed us just what a remarkable player he still is. Picking up a ball on the right and speeding away with it, he looked up and saw what surely nobody else had seen; the chance to release Gigi Casiraghi right through the middle. Up and over came the perfect ball, enabling Casiraghi to run into a space which Gazza alone had envisaged. The striker should have scored, although the ball fell to his weaker left foot and Cervone, Roma's keeper, was able partially to redeem a disastrous afternoon by making a resourceful save.

As long as Gazza can do things like that how can anybody dare – or afford – to write him off? The only English player capable of such things, Hoddle apart – and he'll be hanging up his boots this summer – is Matt Le Tissier, shamefully and inexcusably snubbed when Terry Venables chose his squad for that dire game against Uruguay. One in which a plodding English side, up against a weary Uruguay, showed virtually no flair at all, bar the wing play of Darren Anderton and Steve McManaman.

Bowing out . . . Glenn Hoddle in action against Real Zaragoza at Stamford Bridge

But why wasn't I at San Siro? It's a curious tale. Last February, Arsenal played Milan twice for the so-called Super Cup. At Highbury, I interpreted the press conference for both George Graham and Milan's Fabio Capello. No official interpreter had been provided. I duly faxed to Milan's press office requesting a press pass for the return. Then I rang to confirm the pass had been issued. A courteous gentleman told me it had.

Arriving that evening at San Siro, I found no press pass on the gate! The Press Officer was summoned; a brisk young man called Paolo Tarozzi. No request had been received from me, he said. But I'd confirmed it, I answered. With whom had I spoken? "How do I know. But

War of words . . . Sampdoria's Ferri and Arsenal's Wright

here is my World Cup '94 identity badge," I replied.

"I know you're a friend of our manager and that you interpreted the press conference. But I've been here four years," he said, "and never recognised that badge. Where's your journalist's ID card?" I told him we don't have them. Finally he gave me a pass for a seat beside the press box. In the event, I finished in the front row of the box. When the press conference took place, an Italian lady failed embarrassingly to translate George Graham. Once more, I was called to the dais to interpret both Graham and Capello. After which I said to Tarozzi, "And you're the one who didn't want to let me in."

Hearing of this from me in Rome, Italo Cucci, editor of the daily *Corriere Dello Sport*, of which I'm English correspondent, asked me to write a piece about it. It duly appeared with a note appended at the bottom: "So there's actually someone in Italian football who doesn't know who Brian Glanville is. But he's the only one: (in English) I suppose."

So to Milan v Paris SG. I faxed for a pass weeks in advance. A week before the game, I phoned the Milan press office to confirm. The same courteous gentleman looked at the list and assured me all was well. The following day, a fax arrived from Tarozzi to say there was no room for me. An all-time first indeed. I've been covering games there for the past 40 years! I'd even, when Chelsea played a European match against Milan some years ago, been invited out there as guest of the club.

I faxed Fabio Capello to proclaim my astonishment. A few days later came a fax from Tarozzi. He couldn't agree, he said, that I'd been discourteously treated on the occasion of Milan v Arsenal, when I'd turned up without having made any request for a pass! As for the Paris SG match, he had to turn down 50 journalists and he assured me he didn't remember he'd had words with me before the Arsenal match. But he was sorry for what happened and would be happy to accommodate me in the press box on any future occasion.

Of the gentleman who assured me I had a pass, no mention. And I still don't know what his name was.

One we can do without

ONE'S TEMPTED to cry: "Footballers of the world, unite! You have nothing to lose but your pains!"

In this case, the pain of being obliged to play in such a superfluous and commercially motivated pools tournament as the Intertoto Cup, already snubbed by the more sensible Spanish and Italians.

Two London club managers, Gerry Francis of Spurs and Ray Wilkins of QPR, damned the competition on the same Saturday. Both said they wanted their summer to be free and their players to be fresh when they came back for the new season.

Howard Wilkinson, manager of Leeds United, put it more ironically. He said he knew that his board were quite keen to enter the Intertoto; which could be an excellent incentive for his players to do better in the League, and thus qualify directly for the UEFA Cup!

Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the PFA, assures me he is aware of all the dangers and that he has warned his members. At the same time, he would be put in a difficult position were some of them involved in the tournament.

Intertoto no go . . . QPR's Ray Wilkins

MAHOOD

A to Z OF THE WORLD'S GREAT GROUNDS

By SIMON INGLIS, author of *The Football Grounds of Great Britain* and *The Football Grounds of Europe*

ULLEVAAL STADION (OSLO)

Capacity 29,100
Opened 1926, rebuilt 1985-90

● FOLLOWING in the pioneering footsteps of Utrecht's 'Tradium' – a football ground in the middle of a trading estate – the Ullevaal's proud boast is that its modernisation cost the Norwegian FA no more than £3million and the resident team Lyn Oslo not a kroner. For this is a 'Stadion Senter', a £30million, self-financing complex where the stands and pitch are surrounded by offices, banks, a post office, shopping mall and a supermarket, with an integrated underground car park. From the outside, if you don't look up at the floodlights you could miss the stadium altogether. Inside, the two new two-tier stands, opened in 1990, feature all the usual business lounges and executive boxes of a typical modern north European stadium, but with some odd angles and joins between the different stages and, surprisingly, with column supported roofs. There is also a bare concrete terrace behind the goal which is for sitting or standing, yet has no crush barriers. These oddities apart, it is surprising more clubs and cities have not followed the Ullevaal model. It may not be a stadium as we know it, but at least it earns its keep.
WORLD SOCCER rating 8 (out of 10)

● LOCALS will tell you that the Ullevi (the 'temple of Ull, god of sport'), and not the Rasunda in Stockholm, is Sweden's real national stadium. Built for the 1958 World Cup, venue for the 1992 European Championship Final and the 1983 and 1990 Cup-winners Cup Finals and regular home to Sweden's top club IFK Gothenburg, the stadium is also used for rock concerts – Bruce Springsteen drew the record crowd in 1985 – and, since the horribly dirty sand track was replaced last year by a synthetic running track, for athletics (the 1995 World Championships are here in August). In 1990 a double, white tier of executive boxes was inserted into one side, which rather broke up the design's classic 1950s rhythm. But this year one level of boxes was removed and an extra tier, seating 9,000, placed above. This has effectively finished off the architect's original 1958 masterplan and means that both sides now have the same upward sweep. The ends are still not ideal for viewing but for its superbly convenient location, its style and now for its improved facilities, the Ullevi will surely earn the blessing of one and Ull.
WORLD SOCCER rating 8 (out of 10)

ULLEVI STADION (GÖTEBORG)

Capacity 47,000 (including standing for 3,000)
Opened May 29 1958, refurbished 1990 and 1995

URUGUAY

Name Estadio Centenario (because it was opened on the 100th anniversary of Uruguay's independence)
Capacity 74,000
Opened 18 July, 1930, expanded 1955, refurbished 1980 for Mundialito

● JULES RIMET called Montevideo's $900,000 El Centenario the best stadium in the world when it was opened, still incomplete, five days into the 1930 World Cup. Thought to be the first Latin stadium designed specifically for football, it had room for 80,000, ramps and bridges for circulation, a sunken pitch, a water-filled moat and a dazzling Art Deco tower, with mock aeroplane wings and balconies from whose heights the whole city could be seen. But more than that, the stadium's opening symbolised the game's expansion beyond Europe and the true birth of planet football. The Centenario is back in the limelight as the main venue for this summer's Copa America. Each end has three tiers, named after the 1924 and 1928 Olympic venues where Uruguay's footballers twice won gold medals, Colombes and Amsterdam, and though it may look basic, it remains one of football's great historic monuments.
WORLD SOCCER rating 7 (out of 10)

UEFA list

● BEFORE 1993, UEFA competition final venues were chosen months in advance. Now, more sensibly, UEFA has a list from which they can choose according to which clubs reach the finals. There are two categories, one for 'five-star' stadia holding over 50,000 seats, another for those under 50,000 capacity or which, though large, may not quite meet all the criteria. Transport, communications and security arrangements form part of the assessment. Sixty or more stadia have been considered, of which seven are currently deemed 'five-star' list, and 10 'four-star'.

UEFA's Five star stadia:
Barcelona, Nou Camp
Milan, San Siro
Rome, Stadio Olympico
Vienna, Ernst Happel Stadion
London, Wembley Stadium
Munich, Olympiastadion
Turin, Stadio Delle Alpi

Four star stadia:
Athens, Olympic Stadium
Copenhagen, Parkenstadion
Manchester, Old Trafford
Rotterdam, Feyenoord Stadion
Stockholm, Rasunda Stadion
Bari, Stadio San Nicola
Glasgow, Ibrox Park
Paris, Parc des Princes
San Sebastian, Estadio Anoeta
Stuttgart, Gottlieb-Daimler Stadion

next month

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